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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.
THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING, to be held at DUNDEE, September 4 to 11, 1867.

His Grace the DUKE OF BUCCHLEIGH and QUEENSBERRY, K.G. D.C.L. F.R.S. F.L.S.

General Arrangements.

The President's Inaugural Address on Wednesday, September 4, at 8 p.m.
The Sectional Meetings, from 5th to 10th September inclusive.
Societies on Thursday, the 5th, and Tuesday, the 10th, of September.
Evening Lectures by A. Herschel, Esq., on Shower-Meteors, and by A. Geikie, Esq., on the Geology of Scotland on Friday, the 6th, and Monday, the 9th, of September.
Excursions on Saturday, the 7th, and Thursday, the 12th, of September.
The Reception-Room, Royal Exchange, will be opened on Monday, September 2.
Notices of Papers proposed to be read should be sent without delay to the Assistant-General Secretary, G. Griffith, Esq., Dundee.
Members and Associates intending to be present at the Meeting are requested to apply to the Local Secretaries, who will assist them in procuring railway tickets, and in obtaining from the principal Railway Companies a Return Ticket (at ordinary return fare), available from Tuesday, 3rd, to Friday, 10th, September inclusive.

J. S. HENDERSON, Jun., Local Secretary.
J. A. LAKE GLOAG, Local Secretary.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS.

Session 1867-68.
The Session will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, October 2nd, INTRODUCTORY LECTURE at Three P.M., by Professor H. MORLEY. Subject:—"The College Work."

CLASSES.

Latin—Professor Seeley, M.A.
Greek—Professor Malden, M.A.
Sanskrit—Professor Goldstick.
Hebrew (Goldstick Professorship)—Professor Marks.
Arabic and Persian—Professor Rieu, Ph.D.
Telugu—Professor C. P. Brown.
Marathi—Lecturer, Mr. W. S. Price.
Hindustani and Hindi—Lecturer, Mr. R. M. Dutt.
Bengali—Teacher, Mr. Ghulam Hyder.
Sinhalese—Teacher, Mr. Rustomjee Goviasjee.
English Language and Literature—Professor H. Morley.
French Language and Literature—Professor Casati, LL.D.
Italian Language and Literature—Professor G. Volpe.
German Language and Literature—Professor Heilmann, Ph.D.
Comparative Grammar—Professor Key, M.A. F.R.S.
Mathematics, Pure and Applied—Professor T. A. Hirst, F.R.S. F.R.A.S.
Physics—Professor G. C. Foster, B.A.
Physiology—Professor Sharpey, LL.D. M.D. F.R.S.
Chemistry and Practical Chemistry—Prof. Williamson, F.R.S.
Civil Engineering—Professor Fleming Jenkin, F.R.S. C.E.
Architecture—Professor T. Hayter Lewis, F.S.A. F.I.A.R.
Geology (Goldstick Professorship)—Professor Morris, F.G.S.
Mineralogy—Professor Morris, F.G.S.
Drawing—Teacher, Mr. Moore.
Botany—Professor Oliver, F.R.S.
Zoology (Recent and Fossil)—Professor Grant, M.D. F.R.S.
Philosophy of Mind and Logic—Professor G. C. Robertson, M.A.
Ancient and Modern History—Professor Seeley, M.A.
Political Economy—Professor J. E. Cairnes, M.A.
Law—Professor J. A. Russell, LL.B.
Jurisprudence—Professor H. J. Roby, M.A.

THREE ANDREWS' ENTRANCE EXHIBITIONS, each of the annual value of £20, and tenable for three years, will be awarded at the commencement of the Session. The Competitive Examination for these Exhibitions will be in Classics, Mathematics, Physics, and either French or German, and will be held in the last week of September.
Prospectuses, and the Regulations for the above and other Exhibitions, Scholarships, and Prizes, may be obtained at the Office of the College.
The Session of the Faculty of Medicine will commence on Tuesday, October 1st.
The School will re-open on Tuesday, September 24th.

T. ARCHER HIRST, F.R.S., Dean of the Faculty.
JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.
August, 1867.

RAY SOCIETY.—The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Ray Society will be held at DUNDEE during the Meeting of the British Association, on FRIDAY, September 6th, 1867.

H. T. STAINTON, F.R.S., Secretary.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—The INTRODUCTORY LECTURE will be given by Mr. HOLMES on TUESDAY, October 1st, at 3 p.m. House-Physicians and House-Surgeons are selected from the Perpetual Pupils according to merit. The paid offices of Curator, Registrars, Demonstrator and Obstetric Assistant are offered for competition annually. Perpetual Pupils' Fee, 100 Guineas.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—The Addresses on Medical Science and Education, delivered at the School by Professor Owen, Prof. Huxley, the Archbishop of York, and Dr. Alderson, President of the College of Physicians, are published with the Prospectus of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, and may be had on application to HENRY HART, Esq., Dean of the School.

BELFAST ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PAINTINGS (Oil and Water-Colour).—SECOND SEASON.—This Exhibition, which was so successful last year, will be OPEN for the season EARLY in OCTOBER. Artists intending to exhibit will please communicate at once with the undersigned, who will forward full particulars.

MARCUS WARD & Co. Hon. Agents.
13, Donegall-place, Belfast.
August 1, 1867.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.
MEETING in BELFAST, on SEPTEMBER 18, and following days.

Lord DUFFERIN, President.
Members and Persons proposing to attend the approaching Meeting, and wanting information as to Lodgings and Local Arrangements, will please apply to the Local Secretaries, at their Office in the Queen's College, Belfast.

ST. LEONARD'S COLLEGE HALL, ST. ANDREWS.
WINTER SESSION 1867-68.

Principal Forbes.
Professor Sharp.
Professor Fischer.
J. Whyte Melville, Esq., of Mount Melville.
Lieut.-Gen. Moncrieff.
A. K. Lindsay, Esq.
Patrick Anderson, Esq.
This HALL, established in 1861 for the reception of Students attending the University of St. Andrews, will be RE-OPENED on MONDAY, 4th November.
The internal arrangements and tuition are under the direction of the Warden, with such assistance as may be required.
The Terms for the Winter Session of Five and a Half Months are £60 and 70s., according to accommodation.
All further particulars may be had on application to Principal Forbes, Professor Sharp, or the Treasurer; and it is requested that the names of Pupils proposed for the ensuing Session should be sent to the latter as early as convenient, accompanied by certificates of character and proficiency.
W. F. IRELAND, Treasurer.
St. Andrews, August, 1867.

SIGNORA FUMBO JAGIELSKA, Pianiste and Composer, continues to give PRIVATE LESSONS on the PIANO, through the medium of English, French or Italian, and would be ready to engage for Lady Schools or Colleges. References and Terms.—31, RILDARE-TERRACE, BAYWATER.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE INSTITUTION for LADIES,
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Fee for Residents in Finishing School, 40 Guineas per ann.
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VILVORDE, near BRUSSELS.—The TWO EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS, one for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, the other for YOUNG LADIES, guaranteeing to Families the best instruction in the most extended branches of study, are those of M. MICHAUX PORTAELS, Rue Thérésienne, and the Ladies VAN DER WICHT, Rue de Louvain. Terms, 300 and 320, including washing and school necessities. The best Masters from Brussels attending for accomplishments. Good references. Prospectures sent free.

LEAMINGTON COLLEGE (LIMITED).

Head Master—REV. J. W. JOHNSON, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge.
The MICHAELMAS TERM will COMMENCE September 20.
Prospectures on application to the Secretary.
J. FENN CLARK, Esq.

ELLESMERE HOUSE, SYDENHAM.—A few VACANCIES occur in the above Superior Establishment, for the DAUGHTERS OF GENTLEMEN. Number limited to Sixteen. Evening Term will commence on the 5th September. Apply to Principals.

BRADFELD.—ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, BRADFELD, near READING.
For information apply to the Warden at the College, or to the Honorary Secretary, J. H. PATTERSON, Esq., at his Chambers, 1, Elm-court, Middle Temple, London.

RAWDON HOUSE, FORTIS GREEN, PINCHLEY.—The PUPILS of this Establishment will RE-ASSEMBLE on MONDAY, September 2.

HELEN TAYLOR.

THE CLAPHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Head Master.
The Rev. ALFRED WHITLEY, M.A. F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics and Classics in the late Royal Military College, Addiscombe.
The Course of Instruction is designed to prepare Pupils in Classics, Mathematics, and Science for the Universities, and to impart a sound general Education.
A special Department is provided for Pupils preparing for the Indian Civil Service, Woolwich, Sandhurst, &c.
The Term will COMMENCE on September 18.

WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS.—A choice Selection of DRAWINGS, by Members of both the Water-Colour Societies, always ON VIEW, at T. M'LEAN'S New Gallery, 7, HAYMARKET, next the Theatre. Drawings purchased.

THERESA HOUSE, BELSLIZE PARK-ROAD, HAMPTHEAD.—Miss BIRD begs to announce to her Patrons and Friends that she has lately REMOVED her well known First-class Educational Establishment, so successfully carried on for many years, to the above locality. It has been selected as one of the most healthy in the vicinity of London, and the house is replete with every comfort and accommodation for Pupils. There are two Foreign Governesses resident in the house, French and German being constantly spoken by the Pupils. Miss Bird superintends the whole management of her Establishment, and every care is taken of each Pupil confined to her charge. Eminent Professors in all branches attend daily.

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EDITOR or SUB-EDITOR.—A Gentleman, of many years' experience on the London and Provincial Daily and Weekly Press, desires a suitable APPOINTMENT on a Liberal or Neutral Journal.—S.L.J., 3, Potter Newton, near Leeds.

A CONSTANT READER at the BRITISH MUSEUM wishes for EMPLOYMENT in making Extracts, Genealogical or Literary Researches, or in any work of a similar nature.—Letters addressed to T. P., 15, Henrietta-street, Brunswick-square, W.C., will meet with prompt attention.

A SERIAL STORY of a Stormy or Sensational Cast WANTED for a Scotch Weekly Periodical, to extend over any three months.—Apply immediately through FARMER'S FARM, 232, Strand, London; or address "232," Seaford Office, Glasgow.

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LITERARY ASSISTANCE.—A Literary Man, of large and varied Experience as an Author and Editor, undertakes to REVISE MANUSCRIPTS, and prepare them for the press, or wholly to compose them from materials supplied to him in any of the languages of Western Europe.—Address T.C.D., 5, Fellatt-villas, Wood Green, N.

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TO ARTISTS.—The COUNCIL of the ART-UNION of London offer a premium of TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS for a series of not less than 20 partially shaded Drawings (size, 13 in. by 8 in.) illustrating some poetical or historical work of a British author, or Events in British History. The selection being left to the discretion of the artist. The Council propose to add a further sum of 100 guineas if a work of very high character be submitted; at the same time they reserve the right of withholding any premium in the event of the artist receiving any work of adequate merit.
TEN finished Drawings only need be sent in by September 1st, accompanied by rough sketches of the subjects, and proposals to treat in the same style to complete his series. The set, with a sealed letter containing the artist's name and address, and bearing some mark of reference to the drawings, is to be sent to the Office, 444, West Strand, before 5 o'clock on Monday, March, 1868.
The Series that may be selected for the premium is the absolute property of the Art-Union, with copyright, and will be paid when the award is made, and the balance of the Series to the satisfaction of the Council, within four months of the date of the first award.

GEORGE GOWDWIN,
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MAGAZINES.—WANTED TO PURCHASE. Cornhill, Blackwood's, Fraser's, Macmillan's, Tinsley's, Temple Bar, Saturday Review, London Society, Chambers's, National Review, and All the Year Round, one month after date of publication, or the Advertiser would agree to post any of them at the end of the month to the Advertiser (stating terms) S. H. Adams & Francis, 50, Fleet-street, E.C.

CELTIQA.—MR. BERNARD QUARITCH has just bought the Library of an Eminent Welsh Scholar, consisting of Dictionaries, Grammars, and Literature of the Celtic Dialects, viz. Breton, Gaelic, Irish, and Welsh. The Books are ON VIEW at 16, CASTLE-STREET, Leicester-square.

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ROBERT HARRISON, Secretary and Librarian.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.—The Medical Session commences in OCTOBER. The Introductory Address will be given by Arthur Edward Durham, Esq., on Tuesday, the 1st of October, at 2 o'clock, after which the Prizes awarded during the past year will be distributed.

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Physicians—Owen Rees, M.D. F.R.S.; S. O. Habershon, M.D.; A. Wilks, M.D.
Assistant-Physicians—F. W. Pavy, M.D. F.R.S.; W. Moxon, M.D.; Hilton Fagge, M.D.
Surgeons—Edward Cock, Esq.; John Hilton, Esq. F.R.S.; John Birkett, Esq.; Alfred Polak, Esq.
Assistant-Surgeons—J. Cooper Forster, Esq.; T. Bryant, Esq.; Arthur E. Durham, Esq.
Obstetric Physician—Henry Oldham, M.D.
Assistant Obstetric Physician—J. Braxton Hicks, M.D. F.R.S.
Surgeon-Dentist—J. Salter, M.B. F.R.S.
Surgeon-Aurist—J. Hinton, Esq.
Eye Infirmary—A. J. Landrum, Esq.; C. Ender, Esq.
Medical Registrar—Hilton Fagge, M.D.
Surgical Registrar—G. Eames, M.B.

LECTURERS—WINTER SESSION.

Medicine—Owen Rees, M.D. F.R.S.; S. Wilks, M.D.
Surgery—John Birkett, Esq.; J. Cooper Forster, Esq.
Anatomy—Arthur E. Durham, Esq.
Physiology—F. W. Pavy, M.D. F.R.S.
Chemistry—Alfred Taylor, M.D. F.R.S.
Experimental Philosophy—T. Stevenson, M.D.; Davies Colley, M.A.
Demonstrations on Anatomy—J. Bankart, Esq.; P. H. Pye-Smith, M.D.; John Phillips, M.D.
Demonstrations on Morbid Anatomy—Walter Moxon, M.D.

LECTURERS—SUMMER SESSION.

Demonstrations on Cutaneous Diseases—Hilton Fagge, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence—Alfred Taylor, M.D. F.R.S.
Materia Medica—S. O. Habershon, M.D.
Midwifery—H. Oldham, M.D. and J. Braxton Hicks, M.D. F.R.S.
Ophthalmic Surgery—A. Poland, Esq., and C. Ender, Esq.
Pathology—Walter Moxon, M.D.
Comparative Anatomy—P. H. Pye-Smith, M.D.
Use of the Microscope—Henry E. Durham, Esq.
Botany—C. Johnson, Esq.
Practical Chemistry—T. Stevenson, M.D.
Demonstrations on Manipulative and Operative Surgery—T. Bryant, Esq.

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Dressers, Clinical Clerks, Ward Clerks, Obstetric Residents, and Dressers in the Eye Wards are selected from the Students according to merit. Two House-Surgeons are appointed every four months from those Students who have obtained the College Diploma.
Six Scholarships, varying in value from 25l. to 40l. each, are awarded at the close of each Summer Session for general proficiency.

Two Gold Medals are given by the Treasurer—one for Medicine and one for Surgery.
A Voluntary Examination takes place at Entrance in Elementary Classics and Mathematics. The first three Candidates receive respectively 25l., 20l., and 15l.

Several of the Lecturers have Vacancies for Resident Private Pupils.
For further information apply to Mr. Stecker, Guy's Hospital, August 1st, 1867.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1867.

LITERATURE

The Poultry Book. By W. B. Tegetmeier. With Pictures by Harrison Weir, printed in Colours. (Routledge & Sons.)

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In the year 1866 we imported 438,878,880 foreign eggs, chiefly from France; for the French are superior to us in poultry-breeding. This is the fact which is shaking the seats of the authorities, and seems likely to produce a revolution in the hen-houses. The French undersell us in our own markets, although they have to pay for sea carriage; they send us 6,000,000 eggs a week. Their poultry is better on the table than ours, and very much cheaper. Something must be done, or a dynasty may be changed and a new government set up. The British poultry-eater cannot understand why he cannot be as well and cheaply supplied by English hens as by French. He says there must be something wrong somewhere. Feeling this fact in the nerves of his purse, he is not consoled by being told that British poultry surpasses French in gorgeous plumage, and carries off the prizes at competitions. Caring little or naught for niceties about combs, beaks, hackles, wattles, saddles, and fluff, vulture-hocks or five toes, his standard of excellence is his palate and the size of the eggs he empties with his spoon, or of the helps he can give from his knife and fork. The excellence of the prize-shows and the pictures of Mr. Harrison Weir, he readily grants, have proved the possession of points of beauty, which the unobservant have never seen, by cocks, hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guinea-fowls; but his tests are contained in the sum of relief which the prices of his poultreer can give him from the extortions

of his butcher. Pencillings, spanglings, frizzles, silky or sickle feathers are, of course, worthy of note in an artistic point of view; but it is curious to remark that these things have for years absorbed the attention of English fanciers, whilst Frenchmen have devoted themselves to the production of eggs and flesh. Here is a matter in which Englishmen have won prizes while Frenchmen made profits. Students of the French in France do not come back saying of all things, how much better they manage these things in France, but they observe more superiorities than stay-at-home folks will believe in; and as for this one, it is undeniable.

In poultry, the English seek show and the French reality. Horticultural shows produce large fruits deficient in flavour, and Gallinocultural competitions breed picturesque fowls with small breasts. The editor of 'The Poultry Book' says, the great superiority of French poultry for the table and the greater cheapness of French eggs make it desirable to ascertain what the conditions are which enable our neighbours to surpass us. When this inquiry arose, and curiosity was excited on the subject, a clever Frenchman sent a paragraph to the newspapers to explain the mystery and show the English how fortunes might be made. M. de Sora and his establishment were described, to the astonishment and delight of poultry-breeders of every clime. The ancient race of De Sora had lost all except a dilapidated castle and a small home-farm; and the last De Sora thought anxiously how he might restore the fallen fortunes of his family. At last he found out how to make the henhouse rebuild the castle! He made his hens lay every day, by feeding them on horseflesh. He had proved, by physiological experiments, that if hens do not lay every day in winter, it is only because they do not then get their meat-diet of worms and insects. Fed with horseflesh, their natural fertility returns. The discovery was a valuable one; and pilgrims, full of faith, left America and Australia, and wandered over France, crying "De Sora, De Sora," as the Saracen mother of St. Thomas à Becket cried "Gilbert, Gilbert." Here was, no doubt, the lost secret embodied in the fable of the goose which laid the golden eggs. Journalists of well-earned authority in the poultry world explained the theory of the process. M. de Sora began with 300 fowls, and soon had 300,000, with a proper proportion of cocks. Immense sausage-machines turned twenty-two horses a day into barrels of mince-meat. The ingenious De Sora turned every part of the horse to account, selling heads, hoofs and skins at a profit, and manufacturing the marrow into perfumed pomade and lip-salve. Thus the mince-meat cost him "much less than nothing." Kept in store-rooms of a temperature just above the freezing-point, the meat never spoils. Salt and pepper are beneficial additions. Four years of life having been accorded to each fowl, it is fattened and sent to market; and of course the fowls sent can be counted only by thousands a year. Commenting on these brilliant results, an eminent writer in a London journal asked, "Why the spoil meat of London was not sent to the poultry-yard?"

There are still to be found believers in the discovery of M. de Sora; and for aught known to the contrary among the visitors to the Paris Exhibition, there may have been practical poultry-keepers who have tried to find the locality of his establishment. A poultry-farm said to realize 40,000*l.* a year of clear profit is worth seeing. Mr. Geyelin, the manager, and two directors of the National Poultry Company having been sent to study the celebrated horseflesh henery, Mr. Geyelin published a report of

the results of their researches. A search within a radius of forty miles of Paris was made in vain. At the Garden of Plants and the Society of Acclimatation nothing was known of any such establishment. But, at last, it was heard of. An official of the Acclimatation Society in Boulogne Wood stated, in writing, that he had been informed of a henery with twelve thousand fowls, at Mouy, near Beauvais. Mr. Geyelin immediately telegraphed to Beauvais, requesting De Sora to say whether or not he had an extensive henery. The answer returned was—"not known." A letter which was despatched, with the same question, to the same address was neither answered nor returned. And then the indomitable Mr. Geyelin went to Mouy, and found and saw a great henery. No M. de Sora had ever been heard of in the neighbourhood of Mouy, but a M. Manoury lived at Mouy, rearing about five thousand fowls a year, of pure breeds, and neither supplying the markets of Paris nor feeding them on horseflesh!

But Mr. Geyelin learned some things in France. He saw turkeys hatching chickens. A hen finds a dozen chickens quite as many as she can bring up; but a turkey can hatch and protect a couple of dozen. Mr. Geyelin found large numbers of turkeys—on some farms as many as a hundred—busy hatching chickens. Some of them spend as many as six months in the year at this employment; and all the while they are rearing pullets they are fattening themselves. Pullets and turkeys, two kinds of birds by one process, are thus prepared for the market. Moreover, by this process the frugal French reserve the hens for the more profitable pursuit of laying eggs. The hens, instead of leading about their chickens and capons, have, like other French mothers, substitutes, who discharge their nursing duties for them. Turkeys are said to be the best protectors of chickens and capons. After considering the De Sora hoax, and recalling to mind many a similar one, successfully invented and propagated by our clever neighbours, the account which Mr. Geyelin gives of the *ruse* by which the turkeys are beguiled into the functions of foster-mothers for chickens, must be received as a hearsay which has been believed by Mr. Geyelin:—

"When a turkey has been hatching for some months, and shows a disposition to leave off, a glassful of wine is given her in the evening, and a number of chickens are substituted for the eggs. On waking in the morning, she kindly takes to them, and leads them about, strutting amidst a troop of 70 to 100 chickens with the dignity of a drum-major. When, however, a troop leader is required that has not been hatching, such as a capon or a turkey, then it is usual to pluck some of their feathers from the breasts, and to give them a glass of wine, and whilst in a state of inebriation to place some chickens under them. On getting sober the next morning, they feel that some sudden change has come over them, and as the denuded pair is kept warm by the chickens, they also take kindly to them."

The poultry-competitions of the French differ from, or rather contrast with the poultry-shows of the English; for the French do not exhibit their specimens until the feathers have been stripped off, and the fowls prepared for the table. The ideal of English excellence is in the feathers, and of French in the flesh. In December, 1864, there was an exhibition of poultry prepared for the table at Paris. 500 competitors exhibited in the Palace of Industry nearly 3,000 specimens, all ready for the pot or the spit. Four specimens lay together on sloping tables covered with blue paper, each lot being separated from the other by partitions of wood painted red. The specimens were grouped into five divisions—the Houdan, La Flèche,

La Bresse of Burgundy, Crèveœur of Normandy, and a miscellaneous group. Four La Bresse pullets won for their exhibitor the grand prize of 1,000 francs and a gold medal. La Bresse fowls are remarkable for the smallness of their bones and the plumpness of their flesh. They are very artistically prepared for the market. There were at the exhibition 600 specimens of La Bresse fowls, about 150 specimens of La Flèche, and 200 Crèveœurs. Some of the geese were gigantic. During the show, the judges and exhibitors dined upon La Bresse and Crèveœur fowls. Questions were discussed, not about pencillings and spanglings, but about the loss of weight in drawing, and roasting—preparing for the cook, or in cooking for the table. The loss per cent was as follows:—

	La Bresse.	Houdan.	Crèveœur.
In preparing for the cook	20'95	20'32	17'58
In cooking	40'08	28'83	28'42
Total loss per cent.	52'61	44'32	49'95

No experiments of similar exactitude are on record respecting British fowls; and 'The Standard of Excellence' prescribes no such tests of the relative merits of breeds. Prizes for superior merits on the table have not yet been given at any British shows.

La Bresse, like our farm-yard fowls, seem to have been formed by a mixture of races. They are of any or of all colours. Their shape and size resemble the grey Dorking. They are fed on buckwheat and maize. The district of La Bresse lies on the banks of the Saône, and its fame as a poultry country dates from the end of the eighteenth century, when the culture of maize for pigs and poultry became general. La Bresse pullets only three months old can be fattened for the table. The offspring of young cocks fatten best. A hen may lay a hundred and sixty eggs in a year and hatch two or three broods. A chicken two months old weighs two pounds, a poultard five months old weighs six, and a capon at six months may weigh eight or ten pounds. Crèveœurs, the rivals of La Bresse fowls for the table, are said to be too delicate in constitution for the climate of Great Britain. The La Flèche breed are strange birds to look at. La Flèche cocks have a metallic black plumage, an upright carriage, large watchful eyes, long red hanging wattles, red faces, and red, branching, antler-like combs. They have something weird and hobgoblin-like about them. La Flèche hens, only less formidable in appearance than the cocks, are prolific layers of tremendous eggs. The eggs are not so fertile as they are large. The appearance of this breed is so wild from their black feathers, red wattles, red faces and red combs, that they might have been made in memory of *les bonnets rouges* of *La Terreur*. Houdans resemble Dorkings. They have the artificial fifth toe which, indisposing the old Dorkings to exercise, and making the young ones lift their feet very high, prevents their becoming thin, tough and wiry from running about. By the way, this excrement toe, long deemed a very cunning application of a principle in physiological science, is now generally condemned. It is said to be a cause of the disease called bumble-foot, and probably the fat gained by enforced indolence is lost in cooking.

The names of the French breeds seem to be truly derived from the places in which they flourish. The Spanish breed, also, is found in Spain and on the shores of the Mediterranean. But this appropriateness seems to be the exception, and not the rule, in reference to the names of breeds of poultry. For Cochins China fowls were unknown in that country until introduced by the English. Polands are not known in Poland. Spangled Hamburgs are said to be certainly an English breed. There are no Brahmas on the banks of the Brahmapootra.

The game breed is, more than any other, characteristically English, and the editor of 'The Poultry Book' calls it indigenous. Perhaps the attention given to feathers rather than flesh of late years, and the culture of pluckiness in the game breed in the times of our cock-fighting forefathers, may have not a little to do with the present inferiority of our poultry for the table. There are British game-cocks whose genealogies can be carried back in stud-books for at least a hundred years. The cock-fight was a Darwinian struggle for life which selected the strongest to be the sires of the breed. Many fanciers think the game cock the perfection of gallinaceous beauty; perhaps just as there are servant girls who think the soldier's the finest manly form. Cock-fighting having become illegal, the game or English breed has survived the purpose for which it was bred; but it is still a fine breed for gentlemen with large estates, where the fowls can have extensive runs. And this breed can be used to protect more timid breeds. When a yard is infested by cats which carry off the chickens, a game hen with steel spurs, and having a brood of her own, can give lessons in honesty to the boldest grimalkins.

'The Poultry Book' and 'The Poultry Keeper' are both valuable books; 'The Poultry Book' may be best adapted for exhibitors, and 'The Poultry Keeper' for families.

The Alpine Journal: a Record of Mountain Adventure and Scientific Observation. By Members of the Alpine Club. Edited by H. B. George, M.A. Vol. III. (Longmans & Co.)

WHAT sporting journals are to the several kinds of sportsmen, such is the *Alpine Journal* to Alpine men. People who neither sport nor climb are, of course, astonished at the eagerness of the readers of such periodicals; and perhaps not a few of our readers will be astonished when we confess to having read the first volume (and the best) of the *Alpine Journal* twice throughout, and the second volume once throughout and twice and thrice in part. We can only wish that this Journal were better supported, in which case it would, of course, be enlarged and improved. While the editor is engaged in a labour of love (and all Alpine work is of this character), who would say a word except to cheer and encourage him? Open upon any page in this third volume and how drear is it to any reader who has no Alpine aspirations? Some people, indeed, dislike and dread the subject. "I hope, Sir," said an English lady to ourselves, as we stood before her, alpenstock in hand, some dozen days ago, near the lake of Geneva, "I hope, Sir, you won't talk to me of climbing, of cols and passes and glaciers; I have a nervous dread of the whole subject." To a man who had just come over one of the most magnificent passes in the Western Alps this was a polite but efficient extinguisher. The next day (a fact) we encountered a trio of German ladies, who actually broke the ice (not glacier-ice) by requesting us in tolerable English to recount our Alpine adventures, which we did forthwith, and were rewarded with beaming and abundant smiles. So much for a difference of tastes in the fair sex!

Take as an instance Mr. Nichols's paper on 'Excursions in the Graians' in the volume before us. A reader who has never seen, and who never expects or cares to see, any Graian peak, would find it dull reading. On the contrary, a man who may have seen the grand Graian mountains from the summit of the Col du Géant, marshalled in mighty monarchical grandeur full in front before him, and

especially if he may have seen them in the sudden splendour of sunrise, as we ourselves did from the summit named, on the first sunrise in the present month,—such a man will go through Mr. Nichols's paper with zest and profit. Even its petty incidents are to him amusing. For instance, we had read while in Piedmont a flourishing advertisement of the bath establishment at Ceresole, with prices for dinner "at the round table," or in private. Greatly lamenting want of time to go to this supposed luxurious "stabilimento dei Bagni," we returned to London to learn unexpectedly from Mr. Nichols that this highly-puffed establishment "possessed one dinner-knife, with a blade worn down to a length of three inches." Then, again, this traveller enjoyed one night at a small chalet of which the occupants, with himself and party, numbered eighteen persons. The beds were arranged in two successive tiers, and as there were two *ménages* in this one chalet, there were two fires and two large caldrons to help in filling up the space. Who that has been martyred by fleas and melted by heat in such a chalet does not again feel the stings of entomological persecution and the stifling air as he reads such notices as those we have cited? But to a man who has never been flayed by Italian fleas or fleeced by Italian innkeepers, the whole is a lifeless record.

Among personal annoyances, let us mention one that would scarcely be expected. In going over the Great St. Bernard to Aosta, when he arrived at St. Rémy, Mr. Nichols was questioned first by the douaniers as to his nationality, and upon that being ascertained, was sentenced to a strict fumigation on account of the cholera (in August, 1866). "It was in vain to urge," says the tourist, "that my stay in Switzerland had done away with any contagion I might have brought with me from England. Fumigated I must be; so with my baggage I was marched into a sort of dungeon, while some sort of devil's broth was mixed in an earthen pot for my benefit. The vapour was not very considerable, or much more disagreeable than the natural earthy flavour of the place, and after about five minutes I was supposed to be sufficiently purified." The tables ought to be turned at the present time, for the cholera has been raging at Aosta this summer (though strenuously denied by the natives), and is expected to visit other parts of Switzerland, principally by the passage of Italians from their side of the Alps. We can ourselves testify to the absence of the usual crowd of summer visitors from Courmayeur, entirely on account of a rumour, untrue though it proved to be, of the prevalence of cholera in that most beautifully situated little town. Why not then fumigate all the Italians? Why not compel them all to submit to a quarter of an hour's purification? Yet the Great St. Bernard route and the road up the Val d'Aosta were quite undefended and open.

An ascent of the Aiguille Verte by Mr. T. S. Kennedy, directly after Mr. Whymper's prior ascent, is narrated simply and pleasantly. Chamouni guides denied the fact of Mr. Whymper's ascent, so that of Mr. Kennedy conveniently seconded and confirmed it. The afterwards unfortunate Hudson accompanied Kennedy, and these long-practised mountaineers actually went up Mont Blanc shortly after they had descended from the Aiguille Verte! They made the descent from the summit in five hours, without a single *glissade*. "The next morning," adds Mr. Kennedy, "my wife and I left for England, and the gallant Hudson drove with me as far as the village of Les Ouches, where we parted with him, little thinking that it would be for ever."—It will be

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recollected that, subsequently, Mr. Hudson fell from the Matterhorn, in Mr. Whymper's fatal expedition.

We may mention that on recently inspecting the register at Chamouni we found that nine ascents of Mont Blanc had been made during July—the majority, of course, by Englishmen. Never were Americans so numerous at Chamouni, and indeed at other favourite resorts also, as this year. The valley of Chamouni seemed to echo with their well-known modes of speech. "Guess," said one in our hearing, while he looked up at Mont Blanc, "Guess now that Mont Blanc is a pretty big thing, but it might have been bigger. 'Taint nothing to our Rocky Mountains. It ought to have been bigger."

We have besides in this volume a long but informing paper on the Tödi and Adula Mountains by Mr. A. W. Moore. The Tödi is seldom seen by the ordinary Swiss tourist, except in part from the Rigi, yet some very grand Alpine scenery is visible in its vicinity.

A noticeable feature in the present volume is the comprehension of accounts of remoter Alps than those of Switzerland and Savoy. For the first time, we believe, the Himalayas come into this journal, and now we have a long but interesting paper on 'The Tibetan Route from Simla to Srinagar; and notes of a Himalayan Ramble in the Summer and Autumn of 1859, by J. F. Cheetham,' accompanied with a coloured illustration. We have likewise papers on the Sierra Nevada by Mr. Ormsby, and on the Eastern Carpathians by Mr. Leslie Stephen, the president of the club. A walking tour through the Himalayas, from Hindostan to Tibet, by Mr. C. H. Smith, is another paper of the same class. At last then it comes to this, that as Alexander sighed for other worlds to conquer, in like satiated mood the Alpine Club sighs for other Alps to climb. In all their expeditions we heartily wish them safety, success and good wind—wind of body, not of weather. Indeed, the kindest and pithiest ejaculation to such men would be, "Farewell; good wind be in you, and good weather around you!"

Colorado: a Summer Trip. By Bayard Taylor. (Low & Co.)

Mr. Bayard Taylor, known as a poet and journalist of high rank, is perhaps still better known as an adventurous traveller. In his salad days he traversed Europe on foot, and made the presence of his staff and knapsack familiar to thousands of readers. Since those early times he has described for us Egypt and Sicily, China and Palestine, Japan and Bulgaria. He has spent a couple of years among the wonders of California. He has tramped through Spain and a part of Africa. Blessed with good health and a powerful frame, he has dared the chills of Mont Blanc and the heats of the Dead Sea. Holding his pen with a light though a strong hand, he has made many places into pictures for those easy mortals who like to do their travelling in an arm-chair.

Last year this accomplished traveller left his prim and Quaker-like village in Pennsylvania for a trip to the Rocky Mountains. The journey was meant, we believe, for the Salt Lake; but was, unhappily, cut short, by failure of health and strength, at the eastern slope of the Black Hills. Mr. Taylor crossed the Missouri two months earlier than the author of 'New America.' The land was then quiet; for the Cheyennes had not been roused into fury by what they considered as the breach of public faith. Fear of the redskins was not absent from the adventurous party; but the trouble seemed far off, and the caution which the neighbour-

hood of an Indian camp occasioned was rather a poetical and picturesque excitement than a daily and nightly terror. No stimulant, perhaps, in the world is more exhilarating than a scalping-knife; and it need not be always moving close to the hair in order to produce a quickening effect on the brain. Mr. Taylor saw the redskins, as every traveller in the prairies must. He was not very pleasantly struck by them: "We met a number of Indians and squaws on horseback—one of the latter in a pink dress and wearing a round hat with upright feather, and her hair in a net. A little further, we came upon a mounted band of twenty or thirty, all drunk. My driver showed a little uneasiness, but they drew aside to let us pass, and a few hoots and howls were all the salutation we received." He felt the presence of Cheyennes, Arapahoes, and Kiowas around him, as he bumped and banged along in the prairie waggon,—not unpleasantly, we think, since a little spice of adventure is absolutely necessary to good health and good spirits under the monotony of such a trip.

Those who have travelled with Mr. Bayard Taylor already know with what care he reproduces the landscape over which he drives. In these pages the prairies are made to live. We see the long swell of the rising upland over which the buffaloes roam, the dry sandy ravines in which the rattlesnakes glide, the bunches of wild sage under which the wolf lurks and the prairie-hens cluck, the countless flocks of golden flowers, and the tender green of the sweet bunch-grass. We see in his pages the strong bullock-train, the emigrant's corral, the sunburnt miner coming home from the mountains, the vicious party of road-agents. Here we meet the Jew pedler, the swarthy ranchman, the daring trapper, each in his big boots and his slouch hat, and with his revolver and bowie-knife handy in his strong leathern belt. Under his hearty description we come to love this virgin country and these roughsquatters and teamsters. Just after leaving the Missouri River, Mr. Taylor notes a fact which has in it a grain of comfort: "Here I first witnessed a phenomenon of which I had often heard,—the spontaneous production of forests from prairie land. Hundreds of acres, which the cultivated fields beyond had protected against the annual inundation of fire, were completely covered with young oak and hickory trees, from four to six feet in height. In twenty years more these thickets will be forests." We are not sure that the theory of these prairies having been universally stripped of their forests by fire has been proved. Fires are frequent on the great plain, and anything like timber which stood in the way of a running prairie flame would certainly perish in its fierce embrace. But the absence of wood is too general to be satisfactorily explained on this hypothesis. High bluffs, broad rivers, stretches of sand would offer their resistance to a body of rolling flame. Fire could hardly cross the Kansas and the Arkansas rivers, even with the help of different winds. In many parts of the prairies, the land has not been ravaged by fire for many years. The low brushwood is often very old—the wild sage probably forty or fifty years in certain places; yet for hundreds of square leagues not a high tree dots the landscape, which is not the less covered with this wild brush. Still there are places in which the land has seemingly been stripped by fire of its natural forests—a misfortune of the most tragic kind, since, next to water, wood is the most necessary to man of all natural gifts; and we agree with Mr. Taylor in thinking that human care and culture will oppose very strong barriers to the further depredations of this terrible element.

Further inland we have this prairie picture:—

"Our route, for some distance, lay over an elevated plateau, around which, for an hour or two, dark thunder-clouds collected. Out of one of these dropped a curtain of rain, gray in the centre, but of an intense indigo hue at the edges. It slowly passed us on the north, split, from one minute to another, by streaks of vivid rose-coloured lightning, followed by deafening detonating peals; when, just as we seemed to have escaped, it suddenly wheeled and burst upon us. It was like a white squall on a tropic sea. We had not lowered the canvas curtains of the coach before a dam gave way over our heads, and a torrent of mingled wind, rain, hail, and thunder overwhelmed us. The driver turned his mules as far as possible away from the wind, and stopped; the coach rocked and reeled as if about to overturn; the hail smote like volleys of musketry; and in less than fifteen minutes the whole plain lay four inches under water. I have never witnessed anything even approaching the violence of this storm; it was a marvel that the mules escaped with their lives. The bullets of hail were nearly as large as pigeons' eggs, and the lightning played around us like a succession of Bengal fires. We laid the rifles in the bottom of the coach, and for half an hour sat in silence, holding down the curtain, and expecting every moment to be overturned. Then the tornado suddenly took breath, commenced again twice or thrice, and ceased as unexpectedly as it came. For a short time the road was a swift stream, and the tufts of buffalo-grass rose out of an inundated plain; but the water soon found its level, and our journey was not delayed, as we had cause to fear. Presently Mr. Scott descried a huge rattlesnake, and we stopped the coach and jumped out. The rattles were too wet to give any sound, and the snake endeavoured to escape. A German frontiersman who was with us fired a revolver, which stunned rather than wounded the reptile. Then, poising a knife, he threw it with such a secure aim, that the snake's head was pinned to the earth. Cutting off the rattles, which I appropriated, we did him no further injury."

Mr. Taylor made Denver, "City of the Plains," his head-quarters, from which he visited Central City, Golden City, and other mining villages. "I only wish," says Mr. Taylor, "that the vulgar, snobbish custom of attaching 'city' to every place of more than three houses could be stopped. From Illinois to California it has become a general nuisance, telling only of swagger and want of taste, not of growth." Most readers will think of Bob Wilson in connexion with Denver. Mr. Taylor refers to an incident in Golden City:—"The age of law and order has not yet arrived. The people pointed out to me a tree, to which some of them had hung a Mexican last week, on account of an attempted assault upon two ladies of the place. The criminal was taken from the sheriff's hands and lynched; and the few remaining Mexican residents, who appear to have had no fellowship with him, are ordered to leave the place. Affairs of this kind make an unpleasant impression." One would think so; at least until the stranger gets accustomed to it.

The main interest of Mr. Taylor's volume lies in the practical character of the information which it contains. The traveller looks with a farmer's eye upon every landscape, and his thoughts are always running upon the pasture question. His production might be called a settler's handbook.

A Political and Military Review of the Austro-Italian War of 1866, with an Account of the Garibaldian Expedition to the Tyrol, a Review of the Future Policy of Italy, and her Present Financial Difficulties. By Capt. W. J. Wyatt. (Stanford.)

Capt. Wyatt was formerly in the Austrian army, has evidently passed much of his life in Italy,

and during the late campaign served as a volunteer on the staff of the Archduke Albrecht. His criticisms, therefore, on the Austro-Italian war of 1866 are entitled to respect. When, however, he touches on such topics as international policy, the Eastern question, and free trade, he wades somewhat beyond his depth, and we decline to follow him. Confining ourselves strictly to the military portion of the work before us, we are forced to commence our notice by complaining of the absence of a good detailed map of the theatre of war. Capt. Wyatt is occasionally very minute in his strategical summary, and to the reader who has no special map at hand many of his statements will be unintelligible. With a plan on a large scale of the Tyrol and Northern Italy, the work before us would be a useful introduction to a more elaborate treatise. More than this Capt. Wyatt's book is not. The tract of ground popularly called the Quadrilateral has been almost as frequently the battle-ground of Southern as Belgium has been that of Northern Europe. Not to speak of Napoleon's campaigns, and others which preceded them, the eastern bank of the Mincio has, within the last nineteen years, witnessed no less than three important battles: those of Custoza in 1848, of Solferino in 1859, and of Custoza again in 1866. In the first and third of these engagements, the Austrians succeeded in inflicting severe defeats on the Italians; and in the second, the latter, though they fought gallantly, contributed but little to the victory. In each case the ill fortune of the Italians was due to the fact that their forces were brought into action in isolated fragments, unable to afford each other mutual support against the concentrated masses of the enemy. The plan of Victor Emanuel in 1866 seems to have been faulty. His main attack should have been by the Lower Po, the armies on the Mincio and Garibaldi's column confining themselves to mere demonstrations till Cialdini from Bologna had established himself on the northern bank of the Po. In short, the strength of the Italians should have been concentrated on one point. This could easily have been done, by means of the railway leading from Lombardy to Bologna, which gave the King the choice of transferring his forces from the Mincio to the Lower Po as circumstances might dictate, thus affording him the advantages of interior lines. It would, however, have been wiser still to have deferred any movement of importance till the successes of the Prussians had drawn northward a large portion of the garrison of Venetia. But the headlong daring of the King, excited to its utmost by the moral intoxication which pervaded all Italy, urged him to take the bull by the horns, and make the principal attack on the Mincio. Even then a strategical error might have been, to some extent, counterbalanced by skilful tactical arrangements. It has been asserted that Victor Emanuel had received secret intelligence that the Austrians did not intend to fight between the Mincio and the Adige, and regarded his advance as merely leading to a simple change of position. Others, again, have imagined that the King, pressed forward by what he deemed irresistible political considerations, but aware that a serious movement would, in a military point of view, be premature, determined to make a mere demonstration. However he showed on that occasion that, though a brave soldier, he was no general. The different columns marched without connexion or sufficient precaution, and were completely out of hand, as it is termed; and no preparations were made for a retreat, should it become necessary. The consequence was, that they were surprised and defeated in detail, only escaping virtual

annihilation by the heat of the weather and the political considerations which the author thinks checked a vigorous pursuit. Capt. Wyatt thus expresses himself concerning the battle:—

"Although the Italians fought with the utmost bravery and steadiness, yet a certain lack of tenacity and leadership was visible in all their movements, which the writer considers can be attributed to the mixing of the Piedmontese army with that of the newly-incorporated States of Italy, and, in fact, the battle was nothing but a judiciously designed snare, based upon the principle of the well-known dash of Southern troops, that is to say, a surprise ending in defeat. The Italians by a rapid march intended seizing the heights and surprising the Austrians, but were, in fact, themselves surprised."

The following passage is pregnant with instruction to us at the present moment, when the whole system of army transport is under consideration, and should be well pondered by the Horse Guards and War Office:—

"One of the reported causes of the defeat of the Italian army on the 24th is to be attributed to the fact that, at the outbreak of the war, the military train was not found sufficiently numerous for the wants of the army in its advance. To supply this deficiency, a great number of civilian drivers had been engaged. Unfortunately, a large number of these men had advanced with their carts too far, and got into the line of fire of the Austrian artillery; naturally, the men were seized with a sudden panic, and in their vain attempts to get out of danger blocked up the road with their carts, and to save their lives cut the traces and rode away. This, no doubt, caused a certain degree of confusion, and most likely, if their numbers were large, must have greatly retarded the advance of supports who were marching in this direction."

Only in one place have we been able to discover any partiality or carelessness in placing facts before the reader. The exception we refer to is where, in the account of Medici's skirmish at Borgo di Val Sugana, Capt. Wyatt states that on this occasion the strength of the Austrians was "only about ten companies, against 2,000 men of the Medici division." Now, an Austrian company consists of about 216 men; so, if any disparity existed, the advantage was on the side of the Austrians.

That part of the book which enters into a comparison between Garibaldi's successes in Sicily and his comparative failure in the Tyrol, is well worthy of attention. In the first place, the Sicilians were disaffected, while the Tyrolese were particularly loyal. In the second place, Garibaldi's force was very differently constituted on the two occasions:—

"We believe that the men and officers who composed Garibaldi's first expedition were, as soldiers, superior to his second. There were, no doubt, amongst his first expedition a great number of men and officers who had seen a good deal of service in nearly every part of the world, and some of the officers were accustomed to regular and irregular warfare, which rendered them fully capable of handling the daring spirits they commanded. As regards the equipment of his second expedition against the Tyrol, we believe that there was such an immense quantity of work to be done, in equipping Victor Emanuel's and Cialdini's army, in order to enable them to take the field at a moment's notice, that it was utterly impossible to do the same effectually with Garibaldi's forces; and it was no fault of the minister of war or of La Marmora; for had the war been continued, we feel convinced that Garibaldi's men would have been properly looked after. But then it is said that Garibaldi's army was partly composed of men who belonged to the first and richest families of Italy, serving in the ranks. If such be the case, why did they not come forward like the planters of the Southern States, who paid their men and fought with them? We all know that there was quite sufficient time for these Garibaldians to have made up a large sum of money for the purchase of arms

for their poorer comrades. As regards the appointment of officers, and any feeling of estrangement which existed between them and Garibaldi, any soldier can easily account for it. If a man has served from his boyhood in a regular service, his ideas and military habits, which civilians often consider very narrow and limited, compel him to regard his superior with a certain degree of distrust, should he have happened to have fought against him on the side of rebellion. * * There is no doubt that one of the most difficult tasks allotted to General La Marmora was the appointment of fit and competent officers to command under Garibaldi. It could not be expected from him to deprive his king's army of its best officers; and moreover, military men do not like to leave the men whom they command and know, to join irregulars who are totally unknown to them."

Capt. Wyatt devotes three chapters to the brief, and to the Italians disastrous, naval campaign in the Adriatic. He shows that the idea that the inhabitants of Istria and Dalmatia are anxious for union with Italy is false, and that they are loyal subjects of the Kaiser. The account of Tegethoff's victory is interesting and instructive, but throws no new light on the subject. We shall not, therefore, enter further into a subject which has been so fully and recently discussed. In concluding our notice, we beg to express a hope that Capt. Wyatt may ere long be induced to expand his somewhat meagre notes, and add to them a good map, without which his readers will peruse his book either without profit or without pleasure.

Memoir of Thomas Drummond, R.E. By John F. McLennan, M.A., Advocate. (Edinburgh, Edmonston & Douglas.)

It is something to say now-a-days for a memoir that there is a sufficient excuse to be found in it for its being written. Biography is valuable in proportion to the personal celebrity or surroundings of the subject of it, and except it be a five-act tragedy, there is no more worthless and barren task than the composition of a memoir out of materials which can only be of interest to the writer. The work now before us is not, however, of a valueless order. It does not deal with a man of genius or even with a representative man, but with a simple gentleman of ability, conscientiousness and honour, whose career it is, perhaps, of more service to record, because we find him within the reach of ordinary sympathy, and not above competition by the common run of persons. The lives of men like Drummond are, in all probability, more useful as examples for a rising generation than the lives of epicure and heroic ministers, chancellors, generals or bishops. The number of Prime Ministers, Field Marshals and Lord Bishops is necessarily limited; and it is well that youngsters setting out in the world should be able to fix their eyes upon a point which is not above their strength to attain, and which may still be a long way below the Woolstack.

Thomas Drummond was a Scotchman, and, like most of his countrymen who have attained a reputation, he distinguished himself out of his native land. He was of good family, a point upon which Mr. McLennan dwells with considerable unction and fervour. His mother was a handsome and clever woman, known by her maiden name in Edinburgh society as "the beautiful Betsey Somers." Drummond's father became embarrassed and fell into difficulties, and died at the age of thirty-five, survived by his wife and four children, to whom he was only able to bequeath the slender income of 120*l.* a year. Young Drummond does not appear to have been remarkable as a

boy, although Mr. McLennan makes several attempts to render him abnormal. We use the word abnormal advisedly, as we find that nearly every biographer endeavours to discover that his little Hercules strangled serpents in the cradle, and is often driven into curious straits in order to fish for apocryphal anecdotes and "characteristic" traits. Wellington, Byron, Nelson and others have suffered grievously in this respect; and although Drummond is not subjected to much legendary colouring at Mr. McLennan's hands, still the prevalent *penchant* is apparent enough. Mr. McLennan also falls into the other common vice of elaborating incidents of no account. That Drummond had a cruel Dominie and a hard time of it when he was a cadet at Woolwich might be told in a short chapter.

Drummond had a taste for mathematics and chemistry, and while pursuing his studies for an appointment in the Engineers, he seems to have neglected no opportunity of improving himself in those sciences. He had scarce joined the service, however, before he became tired of it, and doubtful of his success. He had a notion that he would succeed at the Bar, and was about to enter upon that hazardous venture when he became acquainted with Colonel Colby, an officer who was engaged in the Ordnance Survey of Scotland. Drummond at once took to this surveying business, and as the department was then organizing a system of survey to extend over Great Britain and Ireland, he easily found a post for which his services were gladly retained. We have not space here, nor shall we presume so much on the patience of our readers as to give a synopsis of geodesy and a description of the duties which devolved upon Drummond. It entailed travelling, and exposure to weather, and required accuracy and perseverance. Drummond and his staff were obliged to camp out on the mountains; for an essential of the process was the taking of observations from elevated positions. It was while engaged on these expeditions that Drummond used the famous lime-light which still bears his name. Sir John Herschel thus narrates the manner in which this discovery was first introduced to the scientific world:—

"It is with melancholy pleasure that I recall the impression produced by the view of this magnificent spectacle as exhibited (previous to its trial in the field) in the vast armoury in the Tower, an apartment 300 feet long, placed at Mr. Drummond's disposal for the occasion. . . The common Argand burner and parabolic reflector of a British light-house were first exhibited, the room being darked, and with considerable effect. Fresnel's superb lamp was next disclosed, at whose superior effect the other seemed to dwindle, and to show in a manner quite subordinate. But when the gas began to play, the lime being now brought to its full ignition, and the screen suddenly removed, a glare shone forth overpowering, and, as it were, annihilating both its predecessors, which appeared by its side—the one as a feeble gleam, which it required attention to see; the other like a mere plate of heated metal. A shout of triumph and admiration burst from all present. Prisms to analyze the rays, photometric contrivances to measure their intensity, and screens to cast shadows, were speedily in requisition, and the scene was one of extraordinary excitement."

The portion of this memoir devoted to the Survey is entirely of a technical interest. It shows the great improvements introduced by Drummond, and the spirit with which he worked at what to others would seem an ungrateful and unremunerative occupation. It was Drummond's groove, however, and he fitted himself into it. When we come to the narrative parts of the book, although we find nothing of a very exciting description, there are here and there bits of side history which

are not unattractive. Drummond dined with the King. At a previous interview with His Majesty, Drummond mentioned to him the remarkable fact of a shadow being cast at a distance of ten miles, whereupon His Majesty was pleased to exclaim, "God bless my soul; that's very wonderful." Sitting next to Drummond at the King's table was Lady Errol, daughter of His Majesty and Mrs. Jordan. The circumstance, etiquette, and observances of this event are told with a certain quiet undertone of humour and a sly Pepsian manner by Drummond in a letter to his mother. And here we may remark that there appears to have been nothing better or more worthy in his character than his constant attachment and affection for the home circle. He always corresponded with those who composed it in a modest, genial and affectionate manner.

In April, 1831, Lord Melbourne, then at the head of the Home Office, addressed a letter to Drummond, appointing him to the superintendence of a boundary commission in connexion with the Reform Bill. Lord Brougham had probably recommended him for this post. The inquiry was conducted by eighteen commissioners (afterwards increased to twenty-four), with about thirty surveyors and draughtsmen, expending 80*l.* per day. Drummond was indefatigable: "I give them my full service; am at the office, which is about three miles distant, by ten o'clock; never move till the post leaves at seven, and have seldom got home to dinner until near eight, after which I am not very able for much more exertion; yet sometimes I have documents to prepare for next day." While this was going on he was entrusted with a similar mission also correlative with the Reform Bill. In fact, he was respected and liked so much by his employers that they took as much work out of him as possible, repaying him with their confidence and their encomiums. It is with pleasure that we hear of his receiving a pension of 300*l.* a year, and of his becoming secretary to Lord Althorp. For a Scotchman, Drummond was remarkably careless of his pecuniary successes.

Drummond's career in Ireland was one of inestimable service to that country. Sheil said of him, "The Under-Secretary for Ireland was Mr. Drummond, who, not born in Ireland, was more than an Irishman in his love of Ireland, and who, at his own last request, lies buried in the land for which he died of intellectual toil." Mr. McLennan has thought it requisite to write a complete history of Ireland, from the Danaans to Drummond, and a more arid, dead level and good-for-nothing tract we never had the misfortune to meet. Drummond found Ireland in a condition even more distracted than we have known it of late. Orangeism had reached the most appalling dimensions; Ribbonism, the reaction of Orangeism, divided with Orangeism the different provinces into so many hostile camps. Even the parishes waged internecine wars against each other, and the Foleys and the Murphys met on certain fair-days to fight each other for victory, without any more distinct aim for the murders which often ensued than that which Eton and Harrow boys have in struggling at a match of football. In 1836 Mr. Hume stated that there were 200,000 armed Orangemen in Ireland, and that they frequently met in armies of 10,000 and even 30,000 at a time. Landlord-shooting became not only a practice, but a pastime of the peasantry, and potting an "agint" in Tipperary or Galway was regarded as a useful, a necessary and a laudable act. Ribbonmen in white shirts and blackened faces attacked country houses at night. The police, not long established, were unpopular and inefficient. Being selected

altogether from the Protestant side, they were regarded by the peasantry as impelled to every duty by a spirit of partisanship and favour. The magistrates were notoriously bigoted, and committed or discharged a prisoner with about as much impartiality as an English magistrate displays between a poacher and a gamekeeper. In fact, they viewed the Orangemen as gamekeepers and the Ribbonmen as poachers. There was not much in reality to choose between the two. Drummond effected a reform in the constabulary. He established training depots, and threw into the force a judicious quantity of Roman Catholics. Great objection was raised to the appointment of a brother of a Roman Catholic archbishop to an office, and Drummond insisted before the Roden Committee upon the policy of breaking the ultra-Conservative practice which had hitherto ruled in the bestowal of those commissions. He persecuted the Orangemen with the utmost vigour, and caused the Crown to deal unsparingly with Ribbonmen. He had a difficult game to play with the territorial magnates of the North, who, full of the importance of little great men, held as long as they could to the obstinate no-surrender opinions of their grandfathers. Into the land question Drummond went heart and soul. The Tipperary magistrates were driven into a wild state of alarm by the murderous attacks which were made upon themselves and their neighbours. They addressed the Government. Drummond was not forced by the panic into the most extreme measures, but, with a remarkable judiciousness, he took a course as determined and as effectual as if he had followed up the exterminating precedents of Cromwell. He was the author of that famous aphorism, "Property has its duties as well as its rights." The phrase indicates exactly the calibre of his mind. Duty was as much a faith with him as a principle, and he acted up to it with a fearless disregard of consequences. He was, perhaps, the first Irish under-secretary who was neither Whig nor Tory, in the narrow sense of these designations. It is somewhat difficult even to understand the warmth with which he devoted himself to ameliorating the condition of a land with which he had no personal ties, no immediate sympathies, and no connexion save that accidental one which circumstances forced upon him. But Drummond was earnest in everything he undertook. He was by no means a great man, but he possessed the primary ingredient without which greatness is impossible. In science he never would have been a Newton or a Herschel, and yet it is more than probable that, had he devoted himself to science, he would have attained to a distinguished position; in politics he must rank amongst the order of politicians who are essentially serviceable rather than bold, speculative or brilliant. Such a man is not found, after all, every day. That singleness of purpose, and that fidelity to his mission which we must observe in Drummond commands respect, and wins admiration without extorting it. He was a good son, and in social life was beloved by all who knew him. No matter how engrossing was his work in the work-a-day world, he never forgot those who were about him in his boyhood. When he was dying, Dr. Johnson, his friend and physician, asked him where he wished to be laid, "In Ireland or in Scotland?"—"In Ireland, the land of my adoption," was the immediate answer. "I have loved her well and served her faithfully, and lost my life in her service." He was buried at the cemetery of Mount Jerome, in Harold's Cross, Dublin, on the 21st of April, 1840.

An Attempt to Ascertain the Character of the Fourth Gospel; especially in its Relation to the Three First. By J. J. Tayler, B.A. (Williams & Norgate.)

THE late Baron Bunsen, for whose memory every scholar must entertain a sincere respect, expressed himself strongly on the authenticity of the Fourth Gospel to the effect, that if the apostle John did not write it, there can be no historical Christ and no Christian church. The opinion of such a man has its value; though we are inclined to dissent from it in the present instance, regarding it as one of those forcible sentiments in which feeling prevails over reason. The subject is of great importance, but hardly of that paramount one which the Baron's language would lead us to suppose.

A considerable literature has gathered about the authenticity of this Gospel since Bretschneider published his 'Probabilia' in 1820. Scholars of high repute and capacity have written upon it. That it is difficult may be inferred from the fact of so great diversity of opinion among men of undoubted acuteness and impartiality. On the one side are the disciples of Schleiermacher, De Wette, Lücke, Bleek, and others; on the opposite, Baur and his school. Those who are acquainted with Hilgenfeld's books know how much debate there has been on all points of the question.

The work before us is the first attempt in England to sift the evidence for the authenticity, and to discuss the whole subject within moderate limits. The English public are fairly introduced to the question on its own merits; so that we can hardly doubt that other treatises will follow, and the attention of English theologians be arrested, after it has been long indifferent to the German books which embody so much thought on this Gospel.

Mr. Tayler divides his work into twelve sections, embracing all particulars relating to the question. He is a calm, fair critic who has evidently mastered most of the literature of the subject, and pronounces his judgments with deliberation. His spirit is good, free from uncharitableness and dogmatism; his learning extensive and cautious; his critical perception acute. Whether his conclusions be accepted or not, all will allow that he has made an honest attempt to examine the subject, and to set forth his conclusions with moderation. The strongest part of the argument on his side is the Paschal controversy, into which he has gone very fully. The most plausible part of it against him is the difficulty of explaining how such a Gospel could have been written about the middle of the second century, and soon after attributed to the apostle John. Does the apocryphal literature of that century furnish anything approaching the Fourth Gospel in all the higher qualities which have given it a superlative value in the eyes of the most religious men of succeeding ages?

We do not think that Mr. Tayler has exhausted the subject, or that he has in every case stated his own side of the question as strongly as he might have done. With reference to the Paschal controversy, there is no allusion to Steitz; nor does the author seem to be aware of Baur's last reply to Weitzel. He dwells mainly on the external evidence for and against the authenticity; giving but a meagre view of the internal. Hence the eighth section, headed 'Internal Indications of Age,' is brief, leaving various interesting particulars untouched, especially the passage xix, 36, on which Steitz, Buttman, and Hilgenfeld have written. Scholten's book might have been consulted with great benefit upon the internal evidence. With regard to Justin Martyr, Mr. Tayler's investigation is also

briefier than it should be; and those who take the opposite side may complain that he has not quoted some passages from that Father's writings, apparently indicating an acquaintance with the Fourth Gospel. No fewer than thirty-five are given to Zeller; and some more may be found in the twenty-seven pages which Hilgenfeld devotes to the bare citation of places in Justin descriptive of the evangelical history. Our author dismisses too summarily the quotation in Dialogue (c. 88), "I am not Christ, but the voice of one crying in the wilderness, &c.," where the words are put into the mouth of John the Baptist, as in John i, 20, 23, but not in the synoptists. What is to be said of this passage? Was it from an uncanonical written source, as Hilgenfeld thinks? Probably not. Mr. Tayler simply asserts that the remainder of the sentence coincides verbally with Matthew; he might have said that the context points to Luke.

The last section, 'The Bearing of the Question on the General Conception of Christianity,' will be perused with most interest by the general reader, and furnishes a favourable specimen of the author's style of thought. He is evidently a devout and earnest man, large-minded and catholic in spirit, alive to recent theological speculations, and not afraid of any injurious result they may produce. His present book will be judged very differently, according to the prejudices or prepossessions of divines. If it alarm some, it will stimulate others to read and inquire. The subject of it must be discussed in England ere long, in a different manner from that of Lardner and Paley. If Mr. Tayler's opponents preserve his equanimity of mind, they will obtain a candid hearing from every true critic, and promote the cause they advocate. But if they resort to abuse, or dismiss the subject with a sneer at the school of Baur, they need only expect damage to their opinions. Let every question connected with the Bible, including the present one, be freely and reverently investigated, without acrimony or invective. Mr. Tayler's temper is a model for theological disputants; and we only wish it were general. Orthodoxy is bound to answer him, as he has attacked one of its strongholds; if it combat and refute his arguments with equal freedom from bitterness, many will rejoice.

NEW NOVELS.

Circe. By Babington White. 2 vols. (Ward, Lock & Tyler.)

IN 'Circe' Mr. Babington White has dropped one of the orthodox three volumes. This, so far, is gratifying; but we could spare even the two volumes that appear. It would, in fact, be better for the author's reputation and for the novel-reading public had the book never been published. This may seem harsh criticism, but it is certainly deserved. If Mr. White himself could regard his own work as the offspring of another's brain, and therefore without the fond and biased judgment of a parent, we feel sure he would agree with us.

Whichever way we judge this novel, whether as a whole or in detail,—whether we look to the story, to the characters, or to the dialogue and description,—we are equally dissatisfied. In the first place, looking at the tale generally, what a bald and commonplace narrative it is! No degree of talent could work it up into a readable novel, and it is a matter of surprise to us how Mr. White could ever hope to be successful when the very framework of his book is so weakly constructed. It is marvellous the way novelists of the present day set to work! They all seem to pursue one of two courses:

they either take deliberately an absurd plot, to show their talent for working the most unpromising materials, or they start with no defined plot at all, and trust to good fortune to find them one as they go on with their writing. Mr. White apparently elected to proceed in the first course, as the following outline of his novel will show.

Mr. Laurence Bell, an artist, is the hero. He is introduced in this fashion: "There are some men into whose cradles the Graces seem to have showered their richest gifts." "Laurence Bell was one of these. *Grace, genius and beauty* are no small gifts; and on Laurence all three had been bestowed with a lavish hand. The only fault in the fair young face was that it was [sic] just a little too faultless." Now how can any one possibly get up an interest in a creature of that sort? As well might we believe in fairies, ghosts and witches, and go in for the supernatural at once. Having quoted the sentence, too, we may as well ask what Mr. White means by telling us so seriously that "grace, genius and beauty are no small gifts." Is he laughing at us? or what peculiar fun, unintelligible to us, can be got by making such fatuous reflections as this? Why not tell us that *c a t* spells cat, or that "there are milestones on the Dover Road," or anything else equally thoughtful and instructive! The excuse probably is, that Mr. White never thought of the meaning of the words. They sounded well, and so were put down, and we should not have noticed them but that they give a fair sample of the peculiar species of reflection the author indulges in, apparently very much to his own gratification, and which goes a long way to fill up the two volumes. But to resume. Mr. Bell, the gifted being, is engaged to a pretty and amiable lady, whose name is Miss Greystone. This love affair, however, is speedily stopped by the artist's patron, Mr. Mocatti, a picture-dealer, who has an idea that marriage will render Bell commonplace, and stop the development of the genius before alluded to. Accordingly, Mocatti introduces the unsuspecting "grace, genius and beauty" to a kind of fiend, in the lovely form of an Italian princess. Applied to this lady, "grace, genius and beauty" are as words of no meaning. The critic, in fact, attempting to describe her is very much in the position of *Bottom* with his dream: "The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen; man's hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was." As foreseen, and as a matter of course, Bell falls desperately in love with this creature, and after being encouraged and deluded into telling his love, is ignominiously rejected. The consequences are despair and misery, both in gross and in detail. Bell's pet picture turns out a failure. Poor Miss Greystone dies of a consumption, brought on by her lover's unfaithfulness; and, as a grand *finale*, the hero shoots the Princess in the head at the Italian Opera-House in Paris; returns home undetected, and dies quietly of a consumption ten days after. We think no further remarks on this story are needed. It speaks for itself.

Quitting the tale, and looking at the characters individually, we have equal fault to find, but space will not allow us to criticize them minutely. The picture-dealer is the only person at all natural or amusing, but he has already been appropriated by Mr. Edmund Yates in his 'Land at Last.' We do not for a moment imagine that Mr. White has been guilty of wilful plagiarism; but the resemblance between the picture-dealers of Mr. Yates and Mr. White is certainly striking. It is possible that Mr. White may have received his impression of the character by reading Mr.

Yates's book when it first appeared, and, not remembering that fact, may have mistaken the remembrance for an original idea. Speaking of Mr. Mocatti, we may say, and we are glad to be able to praise something in the book, that the French spoken throughout is idiomatic, and very unlike the ordinary novelist's French. Even in this, though, we think we can pick a fault. Is "à la bonheur" good French? We always thought the phrase went "à la bonne heure."

There is one sin against good manners and custom in this book that we cannot too severely condemn. We allude to the habit, which has grown up of late, and is indulged in here, of describing the looks and characters of well-known ladies and gentlemen so that none can fail to understand who is meant. This is simply an impertinence that must be put an end to; and the impertinence is none the less glaring that the names of the persons mentioned are slightly altered. Pages 52 to 54 of the first volume of 'Circe' are particularly offensive in this respect.

At the end of the novel the author asks, "Is there any moral to this story?" He answers the question as follows; and we give the answer in full, for it is a fair specimen of the power of thought exercised throughout the book and the author's usual style of writing: "To the mind of the writer, yes! Is not the history of Laurence Bell a protest against the worship of the sensuous in Art? As Helen is supposed by some critics to be the type of ideal beauty, pure, unchangeable, deathless and undefiled; so may Giulia d'Aspramonte be taken as the type of sensuous loveliness, enervating, fatal, deadly. Unhappily, all the tendencies of the present age lean to the indulgence in a passion for sensuous beauty. In the unbridled luxury of modern life, in the extravagance of modern costume, in the painted face and artificial *chevelure* of modern beauty, one perceives the same influence. 'And why not?' cries the kindly optimist; 'the age has become artistic; and this love of splendour and colour is, no doubt, inseparable from the love of Art.' Ah, surely not! Surely in the religion of Art there is a higher and purer form of worship than that which begins and ends at the feet of earthly beauty."

We believe there are many people besides Mr. White who imagine this kind of sentimental twaddle to be profound thought couched in poetical language. It is useless to attempt to convince such people of their error.

Repeating the question, "Is there any moral to this story?"—we answer Yes! here is one: it is not everybody who can write a novel. Here is another—If a man must be a novelist, he should find something worth writing about, and he should also learn how to tell that something properly. One more, and we have done: A nice sounding phrase, to be used as a moral reflection, ought to be sensible, and—this is very important—not a mere truism. Mr. White's attention is particularly called to this last moral deduced from his book.

Lost Links in the Indian Mutiny. By H. P. Malet. (Newby.)

THE romance-writer may go to the domain of Fact, or of Fiction, for his subject. He may embellish facts if he pleases, but he should at least be careful that his additions to that which really has been do not shock us by their improbability. Mr. Malet, however, disregards this rule, as will be seen by the following outline of his story.

The scene opens on board a pilgrim vessel in the Red Sea. One Yusif, who is going to

Mekka, falls overboard, for no other reason apparently but as a way of introducing another pilgrim named Hasan, who, after saving Yusif, dies at Mekka of cholera, but first entrusts Yusif with a talisman for his son Husain. Yusif returns to Bombay, and goes in quest of the widow and son of Hasan. This leads to a hazy adventure with robbers, and after a jarring episode about the author's fishing exploits, we are glad to stumble again on Yusif, who, before finding Husain, very properly pays a visit to his own family near the Caves of Ellora, whereupon ensues a long description of those often-before-described excavations. Then comes another episode about Outram and the Bhils, after which Yusif finds the object of his search in an undefined locality "looking out on the lovely Taptee river." Yusif then gives Husain the talisman, which turns out to be a silver box, containing the boy's genealogy for only 170 generations, a trifle over 5,000 years. With this is Husain's horoscope, on which are depicted an antelope, a handkerchief, a swallow, a tortoise, a serpent, flames, and a tree with only one bough, with "What thou doest, do," for a motto. Husain, who turns out to be betrothed to Ameena, the daughter of Yusif, now very naturally goes off without so much as asking for her, and enters the service of an English officer. He then becomes a running footman to the King of Delhi; this phase of his life having been symbolized in his horoscope by the antelope! An intrigue with one of the Emperor's ladies follows, and to escape assassination Husain joins a party of Thugs; this part of his career having been indicated by the handkerchief in his horoscope. Having amassed wealth, he goes to Calcutta, and induces Yusif and Ameena, of whose intermediate doings we are told nothing, to accompany him. Here the quondam Thug gets kidnapped, and is taken to the West Indies with a cargo of coolies. On the voyage he recognizes in a flight of swallows another symbol of the horoscope. In Jamaica he forms a friendship with one Sambo, who inoculates him with a hatred of the English. Meantime Ameena, supposing Husain to be dead, marries, as a *pis aller*, one Ibrahim, who serves the white tyrants of India in the humble capacity of a water-carrier. This individual is very appropriately drowned, and Ameena tries to follow him, but is saved by an English officer, whose mistress she becomes. Then follow sundry hunting-scenes, among which is introduced, "under a feigned name," the escape of Capt. Malet from a tiger near Deesa.

We now plunge into the Sikh war, and are sorry to detect our friend Yusif in very disreputable practices. The "good old man" has turned suttler, and is busy plundering and poignarding the wounded after each battle. "The long-lost Husain" now turns up again, joins Yusif, acquires wealth, and devotes himself to intrigues against the English. He visits Lahore, Agra, and "many other large camps." He inserts his poisoned fang in all, and in all finds many followers eager and anxious for the fray. In short, he is the great archmage, who conjures up the tempest of the Mutiny. Here the tale, which is extremely crude and disjointed throughout, departs entirely into the region of the Impossible. It is some consolation that Husain, who has occasioned the outbreak at Meerut, is hanged forthwith, and is only allowed time to recognize in the gallows the one-boughed tree, the last symbol of the horoscope.

Mr. Malet writes much too carelessly to make an impression on literature, and he blunders in things where he ought to be quite *au fait*. We have surely never seen anything so

distressing as his Indian names. Who could recognize Belgaum, Dharwar and Wai in Beljaumun, Darwa and Whie!

The Handspike: an Occasional Magazine. Contributed by Members and Friends of the First Middlesex Artillery Volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS should be encouraged in all undertakings that conduce directly or indirectly to the furtherance of the object for which volunteers were originally formed and are still maintained. A magazine, then, supported by members of the First Middlesex Artillery Volunteers is secure from harsh criticism, though at first sight literature certainly seems to have very little connexion with volunteering. Still, if volunteers choose to write, they ought not to be discouraged, were it for no other reason than that they amuse themselves if no one else, and hurt none. Indeed, the Preface to this first attempt would soften the most savage reviewer; for it gives another reason for the publication of the magazine beyond that of mere self-amusement, and also introduces the publication with modesty and good taste. "If the pages we have ventured to print and stitch together, offspring though they be of our unaccustomed pen and pencil, may result to swell our Prize Fund, we shall have performed valuable good to ourselves and the cause for which we strive to be the honest workers, and have done harm, we unaffectedly hope, to no man."

The contents are mostly of a humorous character, both prose and verse, with matter of a more serious nature interspersed, and frequent illustrations. Taking the serious first, we may mention in terms of praise Mr. Alfred Elwes's lines to the Belgians on their recent visit. Mr. Elwes has given his poem in French as well as in English, and both the versions do him credit. The same author also has a few graceful lines called 'The Last Letter.' One of the most interesting articles is that by Mr. Arthur Ashpitel, on the 'Museum of Arms and Artillery at Brussels,' which gives an account of several old cannons and other warlike weapons in that Museum. The subject is original and instructive, and the author's illustrations assist the reader very much in following the descriptions. We would willingly have had more of this article.

The funny portion of the magazine is about up to the usual standard, and the illustrations are very praiseworthy. Considering how deluged we are with humorous journals now-a-days, it is almost a matter of surprise that anything funny remains to be discovered. What with *Fun*, the *Tomahawk*, *Judy*, and the *Owl*, all following in the wake of *Punch*, and all anxious to do or say something amusing, very little fun is left for amateurs to concoct; and therefore it is not to be wondered at that part of the *Handspike* should in style or subject take the form of the most sincere flattery of some of the journals we have mentioned. For instance, Mr. H. Lemon evidently appreciates Mr. Burnand's writings immensely, and gives us here an exceedingly close imitation of that gentleman's subject and style; for we presume that those short satires on the sensational dramas of the day which appear every now and then in *Punch* are written by Mr. Burnand. The amateur in this magazine has copied the tricks and mannerisms of his master almost too faithfully, especially as the skeleton dramas in question, though most ludicrous and originally well printed, have lately been repeated in the same periodical *usque ad nauseam*. However, we must not be too hard upon a voluntary contribution to a good work.

Several of the 'Stray Shots' are good, notably one "from our hard-up contributor," which is truly epigrammatic. 'Stabbed in the Dark' is well told, and generally the magazine is put together in a way that does credit to the editor. The fun throughout is hearty, but never verges on the rude or uncourteous. We wish success to the *Handspike*.

The Book of the Hand; or, the Science of Modern Palmistry, chiefly according to the Systems of D'Arpentigny and Desbarrolles. By A. R. Craig, M.A. (Low & Co.)

We are familiar with two great sides of a great discussion. On the one part we have extraordinary and seemingly supernatural facts alleged, which are denied by many who have not closely examined, on *à priori* grounds of incredibility, impossibility, repugnance to reason, and the like. On the other side, we have the maintenance of the facts alleged, accompanied by an explanation which it is declared common sense points out as the only true cause. These two sides are ranged each in a long line of battle, with the question of Providence at one end, and the sea-serpent, for aught we know, at the other.

But there is a different class of questions, in which the battle is of another kind. The facts are not disputed as to possibility: on the contrary, it is alleged that there must be some facts of the kind, but the particular modes of presentation—the facts as alleged—meet with doubt, or denial, or, it may be, assertion of impossibility. Phrenology is the most marked instance. Gall and his school have beaten the world into the belief that the brain is a complex organ, with different parts for different purposes: the phrenologists maintain that they can separate the parts and divine the purposes. This is denied, and thereupon issue is joined. Palmistry, so far as it is an index of character, is another instance. This doctrine, and all of the class, are ancient; not merely in general conception, but in some assertions of detail. In the old 'Margarita Philosophica' is a system of phrenology as received by some at the beginning of the sixteenth century: the *potentie animæ sensitivæ* are assigned to their parts of the brain. When we tell our readers that memory is assigned to the region over the ear, thrown a little back, we shall sufficiently indicate that the ancients and the moderns do not agree.

We need not say that palmistry is an ancient study. We cannot pretend to trace its origin: we find that authorities are shy of that matter. We expected something from a learned work which fell in our way while we were writing, and found that the science was very ancient, that many books had been written upon it, and that the Bohemians made it celebrated. This happened to be precisely our own knowledge on the subject. The foundation of the science ought to have been—we cannot find that it was—laid by the Borborites, Gnostics of the second century. These people affirmed that the hand is the civilization of man: take it away, and what will his brain do for him? They had a legend that at the outset, man had only claws like a dog, and lived in a brutal state of peace and quietness. A kind genius gave him hands: he proceeded to forge weapons, to build houses, to tame the lower animals, to fall out with his neighbour, to write on philosophy, and, in short, to be the creature which he is. Among other things he studied his hand, and gave offices to all the lines of the palm. How many of these lines had charges was quite unsettled; some Isaac, we cannot very well make out which, gave 66; Melampus,

12; Compotus, 8; de Hagen, 37; Romphilus, 6; Corveus, 150; Cirrus, 20; Tricassus, 80; Belot, 4; Traisner, 40; Perrucho, 6. If our reader know any of these worthies, he has a larger circle than ourselves. We have contented ourselves, for this occasion, with looking into one old work, the 'Microcosmi Historia' of Robert Flud (1619). We wished to see whether there is any great difference of detail between the old system and the one before us: we find hardly any. There are the lines, much as of old: there is the Mount of Jupiter, on the palm just above the forefinger; and so on. Who will believe, asks an old writer, that Jupiter, at his great distance, of his great size, and with his long revolution, concerns himself with your middle finger. The chiromant would tell him he is wrong, that it is very absurd to suppose that Jupiter cares for the middle finger; his affair is with the forefinger. But even so we confess we see a difficulty; and we see no way out of it in the work before us.

The science, as exhibited, has three prominent parts. There is the discovery of character and temperament from the hands in general; there is prediction and discovery of the past from the lines; there is the planetary influence on the parts of the palm. The first is a striking subject, and may have something in it: of the second and third we say nothing. If we really wished to form an opinion of the vaticinatory part, we should not begin philosophizing: we should find out some genuine gipsies, and should persuade our friends to go with us and see what they could tell us. And we should settle this point before we entered on the planetary question.

As to the detection of character, we have no doubt that there is a chiropneurology in the nature of things, if we could but find it. We do not feel disposed to trust Mr. Craig or any one else. But we will give him a bit of advice. If he will keep his planets and his prophecies for the initiated and give the world at large a book of aphorisms, just stating, without discussion, the inferences as to character which he supposes to follow from the various points of structure, as to their connexion with temperament and disposition, he would do good service. He would promote inquiry into a matter of interest. But he will make little way with his astrology and his prophecy, of which we give our readers one sample:—

"The seven that influence the destinies of man are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Sun, and Moon. [Uranus and Neptune are excluded, elsewhere, as of too small effect to be perceptible: we should like to see proof.] Notwithstanding her smallness, the moon by her nearness has the greatest influence over us. As to the sun, no one will dispute his power. Whilst, then, no one will attempt to show that the moon has not a powerful influence over the waters of the globe, and over certain persons called lunatics, it must be equally impossible to hold that the other great bodies have no influence. We find then [mark this word of junction] in the hand—the ternary or three, represented by the three phalanges of the thumb; the cross, represented by the quaternary, or four fingers; the duodenary or the quaternary, or twelve in four, represented by the four great fingers divided into twelve phalanges. Everything done in time is marked by the number twelve—twelve months in the year [not true, except of conventional or civil months], twelve hours in the day, four ages in life, four seasons in the year, four multiplied by three, the sacred number, gives the duodenary, or twelve. In the hand is also found the septenary, the seven planets, represented by the mounts. The palm of the hand is divided into three worlds like the fingers, and is a reservoir of the fluid transmitted there by the fingers. Among the fingers the thumb alone crosses the hand entirely, of which it occupies a part. It is the king of the hand, uniting the will, logic,

love, and source of life. At the root of each finger is found a mount; each mount corresponds with a planet. . . . The thumb represents creation; it is life, being. . . . These influences are noble ambition or foolish pride, Jupiter; good or bad fortune, Saturn. . . . When these mounts are well in their place, well united and full, they give the qualities which belong to the planets they represent."

We examined our own thumbs, and looked in the book to see what were the indications of our disposition to believe the above to be unproved vagary. We were not successful. We shall not waste time upon a writer who, because the sun is a great power in the way of growing vegetables, calls upon us to believe that he exercises an especial influence upon our character through the little mound of flesh at the inside top of our third finger. It may be so; but the author of the work before us does not show it. He says that logic is in the thumb; he may be right, for himself: if so, he would do well to rub his head with his thumb until there is what the chemists call endomose.

The Life and Poems of Homer. An Historical and Critical Treatise—[Ὅμηρου Βίος καὶ Ποιήματα]. By J. T. Valetta. (Trübner & Co.)

It is observed, in a recent modern Greek publication, that more ink has been used on account of the poems of Homer than there was blood shed at the taking of Troy, upon which they were founded. And certainly, if we bear in mind the number of editions they have undergone, the translations that have been made, the commentaries, controversial publications, and others, to which they have given rise, this will scarcely seem an exaggeration. The stock of such literature goes on increasing; and we are now presented with a treatise on Homer, by one of his own countrymen, and written in his own language. This is not the first work which M. Valetta has published in this country. Some two years ago we introduced to the notice of our readers a carefully-edited collection of the Letters of Photius, with an account of his life and a defence of his principles and character, which M. Valetta prepared, not only in vindication of that remarkable man, but also with a view to advance the interests of the Greek Church. On that occasion we expressed regret that he should have written so much in the spirit of a violent partisan, because he thus lowered the literary character of his work, and, at the same time, rendered his statements less likely to be implicitly received. In the Preface to his present work, while he defends the language he then employed as warranted by that of the foes to Photius and the Greek Church, he admits that his opponents on this occasion are men of a very different stamp, and may, therefore, claim different treatment at his hands. Nor can any complaint be made of his bearing towards most of them. On the contrary, we have been pleased to observe how frankly and fully he generally recognizes the learning and ability of those whose views are evidently distasteful to him, besides being, in his opinion, erroneous. This improvement in the tone of his remarks renders them at once pleasanter to read, and more calculated to have their due weight.

Those who are conversant with Homer and the various controversies which have arisen respecting him and his works will find little in this volume which is not already familiar to them. M. Valetta is rather an industrious compiler than an original investigator, a collector of other men's thoughts than a great thinker. He says he has prepared his present treatise, not for the scholars of London or

Paris, but for the people of Greece and the East, who have access to few books, and are consequently deficient in information on the subject. He heard that much discussion had lately arisen in Greece about Homer, that a prize had been offered for the best essay on the Homeric controversy, and that a learned professor had delivered and published academical lectures on the subject. To adopt his figurative language, a temple to Homer was being erected in his native land, for which persons of every sort, both great and small, were bringing stones; able architects were examining these stones, employing those which met their approbation for the building, and rejecting the others. He, therefore, determined to offer his quota of materials, if not among the great, at least among the small, that he might thus co-operate to the best of his ability with the rest of his fellow-countrymen in doing honour to the greatest of poets. His object is to make the less-informed of his race acquainted with the life of Homer, so far as it can be gathered from the scanty particulars left us, the history and character of his works, and the various publications which they have occasioned. The number and variety of the sources from which he derives his materials imply an immense amount of reading in several languages. Nothing that has been written at all bearing upon the subject, from the voluminous standard work to the fugitive paper, whether in English, French, German, Italian or Latin, seems to have escaped his notice.

In treating of the works ascribed to Homer, M. Valetta gives an account of each of the minor poems—generally allowed to be not really his productions—and a much more detailed description of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, their subjects, structure and leading characters, with a lengthened analysis of each book, thus enabling even those who cannot read them to feel an intelligent interest about them. Several chapters are devoted to their external history, which M. Valetta divides into four periods, from Homer to Solon and Pisistratus, from them to the Alexandrine grammarians, from these to the discovery of printing, and from that time to the present. He describes all the various phases of the Homeric controversy from its commencement, giving a clear account of the conflicting theories, and stating by whom they were advanced or supported. His own views may be analogically described as conservative or orthodox. Following the traditions and authors of his country, he firmly believes that there was a poet named Homer, who flourished somewhere between 1184 B.C. and 1104 B.C.; that he was the author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*; that each of these poems has an indivisible unity and definite plan of its own; that both have been handed down to us in a state of substantial integrity; that the art of writing was known and practised before the time of Homer, and that he left his poems in writing. We subjoin his concluding observations:—

We Greeks, having before our eyes the Homeric poems as they have been prepared by the admirable diligence and criticism of the Alexandrine grammarians, and especially Aristarchus, and being assisted by those interpretations which the no less admirable diligence of the learned Frenchman Villalson has revealed and handed down to us, and the more complete exposition which that of the indefatigable German Bekker has accomplished, and culling from the vast field of the critical observations of the renowned Eustathius whatever is valuable, and, in addition to this, examining whatever more recent critics have written in explanation of the Homeric poems (and there is much that is worthy of attention),—let us thus read and study our poet, delighting in his immortal

poetry, and, if possible, committing its more beautiful passages to memory. But as to the vain disputes about the country of Homer, the origin of the written or unwritten publication of his poems, and, above all, the various theories of those who dismember the Homeric poems, and boast of restoring the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to the state in which they were before Pisistratus, let us leave all these, as quite foreign to our purpose, and in themselves unprofitable. We have already remarked, in the conclusion of our second chapter, and now repeat, that, wherever Homer was born, he was our illustrious countryman. But that he left his poems in writing, and that when written they were communicated to Greece either by Lycurgus or by the Homerids in the time of Lycurgus, this we believe without hesitation. And all the Greek poets and authors have handed down to us, that in Asia, where these things were done, the art of writing was known and practised long before the time of Homer. But this the Jewish historian Josephus denies, and also a scholiast on the grammar of Dionysius the Thracian, and one or two others of that class. What does this amount to, in opposition to the authority of our poets and authors? Shall we, then, throw contempt upon the history of our enlightened nation and its most ancient traditions, and tear up Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, and the whole body of the world's instructors, and substitute for their immortal writings the history of the Jewish Josephus, and the trivialities of a Byzantine scholiast giving expression in his boundless folly to childish notions about the Homeric poems? I have already said before, and I now say again, let no one of the Greeks be so insane. But with these have concurred many of the moderns also,—men renowned for learning and critical skill,—such as Scaliger, Casaubon, Perault, D'Aubignac, De La Motte, Rousseau, Vico, Wood, and Wolf the chief of all, Heyne; and after these, Lachmann, Grote, and many others. Great, indeed, and admirable are the philological ability and renown of these men; and he who reads both the other works of Bentley and his celebrated treatise on the Letters of Phalaris, and also the many distinguished philological works of Wolf and Heyne, and above all Grote's voluminous and valuable History of Greece, cannot but admire the immense learning of these men, and envy their immortal renown. But in these works of theirs they decide about philological and historical matters relating to a more recent period, affording occasions for the investigation of historical truth or philological accuracy, which their great learning enables them to discover and confirm. When, however, entering into the darkness of the earliest times, they grope their way to the discovery of truth, and, not being able to find it of themselves, are apt to be led by the light of Josephus and the Byzantine scholiasts, and thinking by this obscure light to have discovered the object of their search, endeavour to overthrow our most ancient national traditions, setting up, instead of them, their own unauthoritative opinions,—then their otherwise admirable learning has and ought to have no weight with us. Then we say to them boldly—You may believe, if you like, the hearsay of Josephus and the earthquakes and deluges of the Byzantine scholiasts, but we, having Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, and the rest of that distinguished class, will listen to them; and as for your paradoxical opinions, especially the daring attempts on the body of the Homeric poems, and the absurd dismemberment of them, these we utterly reject.

The chief interest of M. Valetta's work for classical scholars is the language in which it is composed. It may afford them some gratification to compare this modern idiom with the ancient, and observe how closely they resemble each other. M. Valetta writes with classical purity; and whatever be the effect of his labours upon the fame of Homer, they are certainly calculated to bring about a gradual restoration of the Greek language to something of its ancient purity.

LONDON CHARITIES.

[Eleventh Article.]

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES.

If any one has a fancy to examine a thoroughly popular report of a thoroughly popular charity, we cannot do better than commend him to the "Report of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, designed for the permanent care and comfort of those who, by disease, accident, or deformity, are hopelessly disqualified for the duties of life." This document shows the inexhaustible character of the charity of England, and what may be effected by really powerful appeals.

The Report opens with the peculiar mottoes of the charity:—

"Oh! I have suffered with those that I saw suffer!"

"Give a portion to seven and also to eight; for thou knowest not what shall be thine own upon the earth."

"Inasmuch as ye have done it," &c.: (we avoid these profanations.)

"The greater the necessity—the greater the charity."

"All the good for the good of all."

Then comes a "Form of Bequest" for the sum of —, "to be raised and paid by and out of my ready money, plate, goods and personal effects" (how it is to be paid by any of these, the draughtsman ought to have stated). Then there is a list of the officers of the institution: "President, His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury," twenty-seven Vice-Presidents, commencing with "His Grace the Duke of Leeds," and ending with "James Luke, Esq.," then follow the names of the "Treasurer," "Bankers," "Solicitors," "Architect"; next we have the "Board of Management" (twenty-eight individuals), "James Abbiss, Esq., Alderman," first, "G. B. Woolley, Esq.," last; then the "Honorary Consulting Physicians," the "Honorary Consulting Surgeons," the "Honorary Surgeon," the "Medical Officer to the Establishment," the "Dental Surgeon," to say nothing of the Secretary and Collector and the rest of the staff—who probably get the best of it.

This is only the first section of the Report. The "Appeal" follows—an affecting document of seven pages; then the "Constitution," thirty-three strict rules covering eleven pages; next the "Report adopted at the last Annual Meeting, Mr. Sheriff Figgins in the chair," ten more pages commencing with an announcement that "the annual revenue has been increased by nearly 3,500*l.*," and ending with the cheering assurance that "the future is full of Hope: may He," &c.; and then comes the record of the "Twenty-third Annual Election" and the list of the "Successful Candidates," amounting in number to thirty, out, it would appear, of 216 applicants!

All this, important as it may appear, is, however, the least important and by far the least considerable portion of the Report. Then follow the accounts of the institution, showing no less than 22,800*l.* received in one year! "Collections after Sermons," "Bequests" (in several cases 2,000*l.*, 1,500*l.*, and 1,000*l.* apiece), "Contributions by City Companies," and, though last not least, a closely-printed "List of Annual and Life Subscribers," extending from page 48 to page 190, and recording, as we should think, the names of one-half of the peerage and a third of the Blue Book, as contributors to this peculiar institution.

The "Report" is not the only document of this institution deserving attention. One cold and chilly night last winter the postmen of our great metropolis were employed in distributing, amongst the wealthy and comfortably housed, thousands upon thousands of an elaborate pub-

lication, printed in the choicest manner and on the finest "toned" paper, being an account of the "Royal Hospital for Incurables," together with the speeches of the great men who from time to time have presided at its anniversary dinners, accompanied by a beautiful engraving of "the Royal Hospital as it will appear," and an appeal for contributions to enable the board of management "to complete the proposed wing." It was this document that led us to pay peculiar attention to this institution; for certainly if it deserves one tithe the commendation bestowed upon it by such men as Mr. Charles Dickens, the late Lord Carlisle, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Enfield, Mr. Goschen, Lord Taunton and others, this "blessed asylum," as one of the speakers called it, must be an institution more deserving support than that any we ever met with.

But, descending from the region of the sublime to that of common fact, what is this highly vaunted "Hospital for Incurables," and what does it effect for the 20,000*l.* a year and upwards subscribed towards its objects?

Some seventeen years ago there appeared in a London periodical, of large circulation and corresponding influence, an article upon the condition of the poor, in which it was observed that whilst there were so many hospitals for the special care of the various ailments and diseases known to suffering humanity, there was no hospital for the reception of persons past cure. Acting upon this hint, some well-known promoters of what are commonly called "Election-Charities" determined upon getting up an institution of the class, in which it is said that the luxury of feeling is proportioned to the number of votes, and the luxury of votes to the number of half-guineas. An institution of this sort is originated with very little difficulty and still less risk; for of course the amount to be distributed in pensions or otherwise is only the balance which remains after payment of expenses. In the present case, a difficulty did present itself, for a schism arose among the promoters of the institution, and a number of them seceded, and established a "British Home for Incurables," which flourishes in another suburb. But this competition only stimulated action; and the "Royal Hospital for Incurables," as originally founded, went on advertising and circulating its telling "Appeals," until it was able, first to found an institution at Carshalton, then to remove to larger premises at Coulsdon, and ultimately to make purchase of a ducal mansion close to Putney Heath, in which its inmates are at present located.

These changes and removals have of course entailed expense, though we believe they have been effected as economically as possible. The purchase of Melrose Hall, the present hospital, considering the price of "park-like lands and grounds" (as the auctioneers term them) in the vicinity of London, was not an expensive one. The great cost has resulted from the "Hall," as might have been expected, being just as unfit a place for an hospital as any old family mansion of the last century might be expected to be. Hence has arisen "necessary alterations and improvements," "repairs," "the addition of a new wing," "the proposed addition of another wing,"—all of which are totalled up under the head of "Building Expenses" in the annual accounts, at the rate of "5,579*l.*" in one year, "3,450*l.*" in another, "5,036*l.*" in a third,—to say nothing of an item of "16,900*l.*" invested in land." In the aggregate, these items for land and buildings, &c. will be found to be far in excess of the amount spent on the incurables themselves.

Take the account afforded in the last Annual Report of this institution,—an account, we

should observe, which is very fairly rendered. It appears that the "Receipts" for the year were 22,823*l.* The "Expenditure" was as follows:—

On the Incurables.	
Housekeeping	£2,199
Medical expenses	123
Wines and spirits	123
Payments to pensioners	1,966
Medical expenses of ditto	62
	£4,473
General Expenses.	
Salaries and wages at Hospital	579
Laundry wages	173
Estate wages	121
Furniture, fittings, &c.	1,336
Rent of houses	635
Tithe and rates	84
Rent of London offices	150
Salaries, &c. at office	610
Office and election expenses	110
Printing and stationery	146
Advertisements	241
Postages	105
Travelling expenses	54
Festival expenses	143
Legal expenses, auditors, and small items	95
	£4,482
On Building and Estate Expenses, Balances, &c.	
Estate expenses	922
Building expenses	5,036
Repayment of advance	2,000
Purchase of stock	2,000
Balance	4,003
	£13,961

Thus we see that whilst the expenditure upon the incurables themselves amounted, out of this one year's magnificent receipts, to less than 4,500*l.* (or not one-fourth of the income), the salaries, office expenses, and charges of the establishment amounted to as much more; whilst nearly 14,000*l.* out of the 22,000*l.* received went in building expenses, or was reserved in the form of stock or balance for the like object!

It is difficult to imagine that the numerous subscribers to this charity, numbering very nearly 6,000, would permit their subscriptions to be thus continuously applied. But in the "Constitution" of this hospital there is a rule which appears to authorize the present application of the bulk of the receipts:—

"XXX. All Life Subscriptions shall be invested in the parliamentary stocks or funds of the United Kingdom, or in the purchase of land, in the names of not less than four trustees,.....and the same shall be held by the said trustees upon trust, as a permanent fund for the charity."

Turning to another page of the "Constitution," we find that by "all Life Subscriptions" is meant all contributions of five guineas and upwards, whether annual or otherwise! So that the result is, that if you give a donation of five guineas for the benefit of the incurables in this hospital, it goes to a capital account, invested in the funds or in landed property, in the names of trustees, as a *Permanent Endowment Fund*; whilst the smaller subscriptions only—the guineas or half-guineas annually subscribed—are bestowed upon the present objects of the institution!

The rule which thus gives power to invest all the larger contributions of this charity as a "Permanent Fund" for its benefit, appears to have admitted of a construction which would have prevented such amounts from being applied to the purchase of such an estate as Melrose Hall. Another rule (rule XXXII.) was accordingly adopted, which rendered it "lawful for the board of management to purchase, or take in exchange, or by way of lease, any hereditaments," &c.; and also to sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber their properties! And to this rule has been super-added another, which expressly provides that rule XXXII. "shall apply to any land purchased with the proceeds of the fund created by rule XXX."; so that, in effect, all the donations and

subscriptions of five guineas and upwards given to this hospital are not only carried to a permanent fund, but that permanent fund is practically placed beyond the reach and control of the subscribers, and left to the control of the "board of management," to deal with as they please!

These explanations as to the appropriation of the funds of this charity will account at once for the comparatively small amount of benefit it confers in proportion to the number of those who become candidates for its bounty. In the institution itself there were, according to the latest information, 103 inmates, several of whom, it should be observed, are received into the hospital upon payments from their friends. In the "receipts," no less than "1,152*l.*" is entered as "received for payments for cases,"—upwards of a fourth of the whole of the disbursements upon the objects of the charity (inmates and pensioners together), and very nearly one-half of the whole cost of maintenance of the inmates of the hospital alone! Deduct that 1,152*l.* from the whole expenditure on the incurables, and we have only 3,300*l.* expended on the objects of this charity! Deduct the amount from the 2,400*l.* spent on the "inmates" of the hospital, and out of more than 20,000*l.* received from the public, we have actually only 1,100*l.* for one year as the total expenditure of this "hospital" on the incurable inmates of Melrose Hall!

"The total number of beneficiaries from the commencement of the charity is 432." So says the last Report. The charity has been twelve years in existence. Supposing it to have received during those twelve years only 120,000*l.* (and we know that it has received nearly 60,000*l.* in the last three years), these 432 beneficiaries have cost the public an amount exceeding 277*l.* apiece. Now, as by far the greater proportion of the objects of the charity are out-door pensioners receiving 20*l.* a year apiece, it may be imagined, from this item, how large is the proportion of money which has been either absorbed in "expenses" or permanently invested under "Rule XXX."

The Reports and papers of this charity, and the speeches which have been made on its behalf, are full of poetical allusions to the beauty of its situation, the happy condition of its afflicted inmates, and, above all, to the necessity of enlargement and "additional wings." A personal inspection of the place, a few months since, by no means realized the anticipations which the perusal of these roseate accounts of it had excited. "Melrose Hall" is as Lord Enfield described it—an old-fashioned country edifice, with a great hall, a large reception-room, and a number of small and inconvenient bedrooms. No building could be worse adapted for the purposes of an hospital, as the officers of the establishment were ready to acknowledge. The "new wing" for the male inmates has been constructed on a more convenient principle; but we confess we thought it exceedingly deficient in very many of those arrangements which must be needed in every hospital, and which are more especially essential in an hospital for incurables, many of whom are bed-ridden, whilst others are only able to creep from wall to wall. In matters so essential as bath accommodation, water-supply, wardrobe arrangements, and even still more important particulars, it certainly seemed to us that the hospital was exceedingly deficient, and the fact did not appear to be denied.

These deficiencies were the more marked because economy is certainly not the order of the day at Melrose Hall. Nor should we have wished to find it so in matters relating to dietary. Judging, indeed, from the daily bills

of fare placed before us, the provision for the inmates bordered on the profuse. If they were able to consume one-half of what was stated to be provided for them, it was quite evident that it was not the appetites of the inmates which were incurable.

Of the inmates themselves, of their cheerfulness, their happy condition, &c., a great deal is said in the documents before us. Lord Enfield "found the rooms of the ladies supplied with all those appliances and little elegancies which do so much to make home attractive." Lord Dufferin found provided for them "whatever medical skill and the most tender solicitude could suggest for the amelioration of their sufferings." Lord Chelmsford had a pair of slippers presented to him by one of the inmates, by whose bedside he had sat and talked. Mr. Goschen saw the Thames from the Hospital (we strongly suspect only in imagination), and found that the inmates, "as they sat at the windows, gazed on the most beautiful views, with a green park before them, and the Surrey hills in the distance."

In idea, all this is very charming; but the stern reality of the case makes us doubt whether any of these occasional visitors went very deeply into the matter. The inmates of the Hospital (as is always the case in election-charities) are very ill assorted. They are ill assorted not only by reason of age and differences of disposition and character, but by differences of education, station, and previous pursuits. They are ill assorted, also, by reason of the very various classes of complaint under which they suffer. It is very difficult to discriminate as to incurable cases. A malformation is incurable; asthma is incurable; disease of the heart is incurable; affection of the nerves is, in many cases, incurable. These are all cases on the books of the asylum; but these are evidently mild forms of incurable disease contrasted with some we saw there—people suffering from paralysis, softening of the brain, spasmodic affection of the muscles, and so forth. For these classes of cases, indeed, hospital wards are required quite distinct from the ordinary rooms of the asylum, where patients ought to be classified with much discrimination.

As to the cheerfulness and happy condition of the patients, in the spring of the present year there were certain unpleasant investigations, commonly called "coroner's inquests," into deaths which had occurred with unusual rapidity at the Royal Hospital for Incurables. The evidence that was then given certainly did not altogether bear out Lord Dufferin's conclusions as to "the tender solicitude" bestowed upon the inmates. The nurses were charged with very rough treatment of some of the poor helpless creatures committed to their care, respecting some of whom the evidence was of an extremely painful character. It was, however, conclusively proved by the medical witnesses that the deceased inmates died natural deaths; and the principal medical witness said that the nurse principally accused was "kind and attentive, although she had very unthankful and obnoxious duties to perform." It may easily be understood that all this was true enough, whether for or against the discipline of the institution.

It must be evident, however, to any one who visits this hospital that here, above most other institutions of the class, the patients most helpless and most requiring assistance are those most at the mercy of the nurses and attendants. It is worthy of observation that of the immense staff of this institution there is no resident medical officer! Attendance is given—and we have no doubt very conscientiously given—daily, by a medical attendant to the establish-

ment residing in the neighbourhood, who, by the way, does not appear to be at all overpaid for his services; but it might have been imagined that the whole establishment of an hospital for incurables would have been primarily placed under the care and management of a well qualified resident medical officer, and we confess to very great surprise at finding the contrary practice to prevail. In so saying, however, it must be expressly understood that we are in no way disparaging the officer presiding as steward or governor over the establishment, who in several particulars, and especially in his manner of dealing with, conciliating, and obtaining the regard and esteem of the inmates, appeared to be exceedingly efficient.

Lord Elcho, who presided at the last anniversary festival of this institution, asked the public for 10,000*l.* more, to raise a new wing. Our own observation leads us to think that no such addition to the building is immediately required. The hospital is certainly not filled by its present inmates. When we last visited it, there was at least one large room wholly unoccupied on the first floor of the present new building, and we were given to understand that the whole of the upper floor was vacant. It is an injury to the cause of true charity to be always making these pressing appeals for large sums of money, and, as in this case, to be making them without necessity. Mr. Charles Dickens took very good care to avoid this error, when he presided at the anniversary dinner. He referred to the number of applicants (then 121; now, we are sorry to say, much larger) annually disappointed of receiving the assistance of this institution.—

"Within how small a compass," he said, "lies the ambition of these 121 applicants! If one of this number could but make an audible address to you here at this table instead of me, how touchingly might he say,—'Health has departed from us for ever—our place in the struggle for bread has been filled up by others, and we have faintly dropped out of the course. Give us only a quiet home, where we may patiently endure what we have to undergo, and where, by our patient manner and brightened faces, we may somewhat reward your kind interest on our behalf.' Once they were busy and strong, but now they are hopelessly disqualified for the duties of life; let us discharge the first of these, and provide for them a resting-place, where they may be sheltered and cared for in their irremovable afflictions. I am sure we shall not reject their prayers, and that the time will come when this Hospital shall be nobly lodged and bountifully endowed, so that no other qualification will be needed to ensure entrance within its walls but the presence of incurable disease."

The time has come. This Royal Hospital for Incurables is now both "nobly lodged and bountifully endowed." It has taken up its abode at Melrose Hall, and it is in receipt of an annual income of upwards of twenty thousand pounds of public money. No qualification ought now to be needed but the presence of incurable disease to ensure entrance within its walls. The amounts subscribed to it ought not to be applied to permanent endowments or investments, but ought to be spent, and judiciously spent, upon those for whom the Hospital was designed—"those who, by any disease, accident or deformity, are hopelessly disqualified for the duties of life." 20,000*l.* a year ought to suffice to maintain a very greatly enhanced number, both of inmates of the Hospital and of pensioners from the funds of the charity; and we sincerely trust that, now the attention of the managers and subscribers has been directed to the facts, the utility of this institution will be at once extended proportionately to the amount with which the bounty of the public has endowed it, and to the number of

unhappy objects seeking the benefits which the benevolent are anxious to afford through its machinery.

The public will not support such an institution the less because it may need more. It is really quite affecting to observe how largely and how willingly assistance of every description has been rendered by benevolent individuals to these unfortunates. It is not alone in the amount of contributions to the institution that we find their sympathy expressed and their bounty so willingly subscribed, but in numerous other equally useful and more pleasing gifts. Some persons have presented books for the perusal of the patients; others, pictures and artificial flowers. One gentleman gave several invalid chairs for the crippled patients, and also several milch cows, whose kindly contributions to the dietary were of great value. At various times, a benevolent nobleman is recorded to have sent the poor incurables presents of game and fruit; another gentleman sent them a clock, a barometer, a telescope and a costly musical box. A piano was presented by one friend; and, during the present year, an organ has been purchased and put up in the drawing-room at the expense of another. The incumbents of the surrounding parishes and districts have continually given these poor people the advantage of religious services in the establishment itself, besides the consolations of religion whenever their services were specially required.

"It were a proud day," says the Report, in questionable English; "it were a proud day that should sweep from the list one-half of the waiting sufferers. And why should not this be?"

In the name of the public, we echo the question, "Why should not this be?"

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

An Essay on English Municipal History. By James Thompson. (Longmans & Co.)

THIS little book does not affect to be a history of municipal institutions in England, but is, as the author tells us, a brief essay, the object of which is to assist all readers who take an interest in the rise of our municipal freedom in their inquiries into the subject; and to serve as a contribution to the English literature relating to it. In the course of the work the author nevertheless gives short but very interesting accounts of several of the English boroughs; namely, St. Albans, Leicester, Preston, Norwich and Yarmouth. We are not accustomed in these days to associate an idea of very great energy or valour with the persons of the mayors, aldermen and burgesses who exercise authority in our cities. They are—to use the phrase of Beatrice—"very valiant trenchermen," but beyond the walls of the banquet hall we think but lightly of their prowess. There has, nevertheless, ever been in the governing bodies of our towns (and we doubt not there still is, should occasion arise for its display) a sturdy independence and a kind of constitutional turbulence to which we owe much of the liberty we now enjoy. Whether the tyrant of the neighbourhood was a king, a baron, or a priest, he found an opponent in the Merchant Guild, or the corporation, of the borough which, though often defeated, was ever ready to resume the struggle—which was, in the term of the present day, quite "irrepressible." The progress of our municipal institutions is then not merely a subject of archaeological interest, but a very important and instructive branch of our national history. In modern days the fact that the history of the Court and of foreign wars is not the national history has been recognized; but much additional information may still be gained by careful examination of the archives of our borough corporations. The task is laborious, and thanks are due to those who devote themselves to it. Mr. Thompson has performed his work in that careful and conscientious way which can alone produce any valuable result, and

his essay is not only interesting to those who are connected with the boroughs we have mentioned, but valuable as a contribution to English history, which we hope we may view only as an instalment of the author's work.

Report to the Board of Trade on Banks, Banking, and Life Assurance; from Bentley's Registry of Bank and Life Assurance Accounts. (Bentley.)

REPORT to the Board of Trade! Anybody who chooses can write an attack on banks and life offices, and throw it into the form of a report to a Board. There is something so near akin to deception in this attempt to look official, that we content ourselves with the simple announcement, and the statement made in the Report that 161 life offices have been closed in the last eleven years! We should like to see the names.

Catholic Psychology; or, the Philosophy of the Human Mind simplified and systematized from the most approved Authors, according to Nature, Reason, and Experience, and consistently with Revelation. By A. J. X. Hart. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)

WE are informed that "all matter is therefore indestructible," because its particles cannot be destroyed "by man." To destroy matter, he must "separate its length, breadth, and thickness, which no physical division can effect." Mineral and vegetable life may be the products of electricity, and animal life of spirit acting by electricity according to the law of creation. Should any of our readers find information in this, he knows where to go for more of it.

Inventors and Inventions. In Three Parts. By Henry Dircks, C.E. (Spon.)

THE three Parts are—I. The Philosophy of Invention, considered strictly in relation to ingenious contrivances tending to facilitate scientific operations, to extend manufacturing skill, or to originate new sources of industry. II. The Rights and Wrongs of Inventors, particularly as affected by the influence of patent monopoly, legally and politically examined. III. Early inventors' inventories of secret inventions, employed from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century, in substitution of letters patent. The whole may be described as a defence of patents, and a distinction between the patent question and the patent laws as they stand. Mr. Dircks defends patents, in opposition to those who advocate what Mr. Stuart Mill calls "not free trade, but free stealing." We advocate the same side, with a very lively sense of the difficulty of the whole subject. We recommend Mr. Dircks's book to all who would like to have an interest created in the matter in their own minds.

Records of Whitecross Street Prison. By an Eye-Witness. (Vickers.)

WE are quite ready to believe that the writer of this book has been in the place which he describes, but we very much question if his visit was occasioned by "a neglect to file an answer to certain proceedings" in the Court of Chancery. Judging from the style in which he inveighs against lawyers, and ascribes all imprisonments for debt to the attorney's bill of costs, we should rather class him among the genuine debtors whom he professes to have visited as a mysterious stranger. Indeed, his writing is so bad that any answer he had filed in the Court of Chancery would have subjected him to a penalty for contempt of Court. We should do wrong if we were merciful to his contempt of literature. It is quite possible that there may be a substratum of truth in the account of the men of rank and distinction who were the writer's companions. The caprices of fortune are so great that no one need be surprised at seeing a count out at elbows, or a quondam Eastern prince sweeping a crossing. But some delicacy of touch is required in order to tell the stories of those who have fallen from their high estate. The truest pathos is lost when vulgarity vies with artifice to make up a highly coloured picture; and vulgarity is the most conspicuous feature of the Eye-witness in Whitecross Street. We are reminded by his book of the crowd of sham detectives and late general practitioners, whose wonderful experience figured in gaudy-

coloured paper-covers a few years ago. These writers always tell you that they do not trust to their imagination, but that the scenes they portray are real. We grant that there is some reality in their books, but the only part of it which is genuine is the unconscious reflexion of their own character. All else is the product of a great many idle brains, and the essence of a great many foolish stories. The traditions which hang about any place of resort, be it a theatre, a tavern, or a gaol, are always changing and growing. One generation has its anecdotes and its heroes of anecdote. If the anecdote is good, or its hero well known, the honours of print are accorded to it early; but if it is not printed, it does not die—it goes into a new phase of life, and is handed down to the next generation. It follows the law of nature, and increases and multiplies. Old stories seem to revolve in cycles, and, after being forgotten some years, to re-appear with new vigour. The first person who tells them after this interval passes off for a time as their creator, and the first person who prints an old tradition imagines that he saw it acted. Not all, however, are so modest as our Eye-witness, who declares that the change in our laws of debt "imparts a permanent value" to his volume. He "may lack the ability to convey his meaning in language or style either elegant or dramatic"; but these are non-essentials. What he can do is to give us highly drawn sketches of colonels and majors, barristers and attorneys, baronets and honourables, who formed the high society of the prison, and to relieve these sketches by records of lower life, which scarcely vary in substance, and are only a little worse in manner. If this is his object, our readers will not care to ask how he has attained it. It is a relief to us to close his book without quoting any more of the choice sentences we had pencilled.

Lassalle e il suo Eracito. Saggio di Filosofia Egheliana. Per Raffaele Mariano. (Firenze, dei successori le Monnier.)

THE work of an ardent Hegelian, who thinks that in that philosophy lies the secret of the renovation of Italy. He gives an account of the works of Lassalle, and especially of his Hegelian comment on Heraclitus. A biography of Lassalle is added.

A Bas Voltaire!—Vade-Mecum du Chrétien. Par Nobody (Habitué de Paroisse). Correspondance avec D'Alembert. Anywhere, chez MM. les Bedaux, &c.

THIS collection of paragraphs from Voltaire (with an excellent dedication in Macaronic verse—Latin, French and English) may have been made by either a friend or enemy. The audacious maxims that would gratify the friend might be cited by an enemy to show of what detestable stuff Voltaire was, in his opinion, composed. On the other hand, there is so much common sense in some of the maxims as to lead us to suppose that either Nobody is an admirer of the man from whom he quotes, or that he believes in Nothing in particular, and only aims at accomplishing a joke. As samples of what this pamphlet contains of Voltaire, take the following:—"In Calvin's own city, there are now not more than a few ecoundrels (*gredins*) who believe in the consubstantial!"—"When pedants fight, philosopher triumph!"—"Missionaries are crossing seas and continents; then, philosophers must take to the streets at home, and sow the good seed from house to house." Voltaire's cynical affectation in his joke of denying the authorship of the 'Philosophical Dictionary,' reminds us of the compact noticed in one of Sterne's letters:—"Crébillon has made a convention with me, which, if he is not too lazy, will be no bad *periflage*. As soon as I get to Toulouse, he has agreed to write to me an expository letter upon the indecorum of T. Shandy, which is to be answered by recrimination upon the liberties in his own works,—these are to be printed together,—*Crébillon against Sterne; Sterne against Crébillon*,—the copy to be sold, and the money to be equally divided. This is good Swiss policy." But it did not come to practical conclusion.

The Science of the Weather, in a Series of Letters and Essays. By Several Authors. Edited by "B." (Glasgow, Laidlaw.)

THE authors named are the late Miss Barbara

Burton, Fr. Pratt, F.M.S., W. H. White, M.B.S. The system is planetary; every planet takes a share. When "B" publishes an almanac and gives true predictions, we shall be sure to hear of him: till then we leave him to our readers.

St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland in the Third Century. By R. Steele Nicholson. (Belfast, Archer & Sons.)

Gibbon disposes of the sixty-six lives of St. Patrick which were extant in the ninth century, by remarking that those threescore and six biographies "must have contained as many thousand lies." We may add, of the three or four lives of the saint that have survived to our time, that they are utterly bewildering and mutually contradictory. We are not astonished that learned men like Dr. Ledwick, for instance, have been led to deny the existence of the saint altogether. Mr. Nicholson does not go so far as this. He has come to the conclusion that St. Patrick did not begin his missionary work in Ireland about 432, but a couple of centuries earlier. In this early work he founded an independent church; and at the later period Palladius came over on a mission from Rome, did little in overturning the old Church, but founded some ecclesiastical brotherhoods in connexion with Rome, by whom all the acts and merits of St. Patrick were assigned to the less successful but thoroughly ultramontane Palladius. The papal gift which conferred Ireland on England, if she could get it, and the subjection of the Church of Ireland by the conquering Henry the Second to the Church of Rome, may be said, Mr. Nicholson thinks, to have caused legend to take the place of truth. Mr. Nicholson gives several reasons for assigning an earlier date to St. Patrick's birth than is generally accepted. Among his proofs and authorities is the mention of Patrick's name in the poems of Ossian. But the value of such testimony must depend upon the era in which those poems were composed, and the individual by whom they were put together. Mr. Nicholson disposes, he thinks, of both questions by assuring us that "the poems of Ossian.... have been handed down for ages in Ireland," and that "if those poems were composed by Ossian (whose era in Irish history has never been disputed), the question as to the time at which St. Patrick lived is effectually disposed of and conclusively determined."

We have on our table *The Voice of the Prayer-Book: Lectures and Annotations on the Liturgy, expository and apologetic*, by the Rev. Nevison Loraine (Longmans).—*The Ordinance of Levites*, by James Suter (Edinburgh, Nimmo).—*Shinar; the Scripture Record of the Confusion of Language and the Dispersion verified by Modern Discovery: A Lecture delivered before the Dublin Young Men's Christian Association, in connexion with the United Church of England and Ireland, June 5, 1867*, by Dominick McCausland (Bentley).—*Words from the Poets*, selected by C. M. Vaughan (Macmillan).—*A Shilling Book of Golden Deeds, for the Use of Parochial Schools and Libraries*. Selected from 'A Book of Golden Deeds' by the Author of 'The Heir of Redclyffe' (Macmillan).—*The Wood-Cart, and other Tales of the South of France*, by F. M. P., reprinted from 'The Magazine for the Young' (Mozley).—*Stevens and Hole's School Series, comprising the Standard Arithmetical Copy-Book, 9 Books; The Complete Arithmetical Copy-Book, 9 Books; and The Complete Writer, 16 Books* (Longmans). Also the following New Editions:—*The Church and the Churches; or, the Church of God in Christ and the Churches of Christ Militant here on Earth*, by the Rev. Hugh McNeile, D.D., 2 vols. (Hatchard), and *Words of Comfort for Parents bereaved of Little Children*, edited by William Logan, with an introductory Historical Sketch, by the Rev. William Anderson (Nisbet).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Berkley's History of Rome, 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Consult Me, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
Dumas's Two Dianas, 12mo. 1/6 swd.
Eusebii Historia, as Revealed, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Fitzgerald's Suez Canal and Eastern Question, post 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Good Old Stories, 4to. 6/6 swd.
Leonard's Poetical Works of Valentine Verity, Vol. 1, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Model Dockyard, royal 8vo. 1/6 swd.
New Theory of Geology, demonstrating Truth of Bible, 8vo. 3/6 cl.
Photographs of the Clyde, with Letter-press, 4to. 31/ cl.
Poole (Joshua), Life of, 12mo. 1/6 cl. swd.
Punch, Re-issue, Vols. 1861 to 1865, 4to. each 17/ cl. gilt.

Ravenstein's Handbook of Gymnastics and Athletics, 8vo. 8/6 cl.
 Robertson's Gospel Questions, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.
 Rogers's Christian Heroes in Army and Navy, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Ross's Studies, Biographical and Literary, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Russell's Hunchback's Chalice: a Romance, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 24/ cl.
 Smith's Cavalry Outpost Drill, post 8vo. 4/6 cl.
 Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopœia, 8vo. 8/6 cl.
 Suter's Ordinance of Levites, 12mo. 1/6 cl. swd.
 Travels in Norway for Children, by Uncle John, 12mo. 1/ cl.
 Trelown's Letitia Schmidt, and other Stories, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
 Williams's Climate of South of France, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Winter Journey from Gloucester to Norway, 12mo. 1/6 swd.

PASCAL AND NEWTON.

Alley, Melrose, Aug. 19, 1867.

As the biographer of Sir Isaac Newton, and the only living person who has examined his letters and MSS. in the possession of the Earl of Portsmouth, I feel that I am called upon to expose the forged correspondence between him and Pascal which has recently been presented to the French Academy of Sciences, and published in successive numbers of the *Comptes Rendus*, &c.

After perusing this correspondence, I communicated to M. Chevreul, the President of the Academy, the most satisfactory evidence that the letters are forgeries; but as my letter may not be published till the Committee of the Academy give in their Report, I am anxious that the truth, in so far as I can state it, should be known in this country.

If the correspondence in question is genuine, Pascal has anticipated Newton in the discovery of the Law of Gravity; and our French foe across the Channel might justly charge Mr. Conduitt, Bishop Horsley, and myself—who, I believe, are the only persons who had thoroughly examined the papers of Sir Isaac Newton—with having destroyed the letters of Pascal, in order to give to Newton the honour, and to England the glory, of so great a discovery.

1. In the Portsmouth papers there is not a single letter from Pascal to Newton, nor any letter or document in which his name is mentioned.

2. Pascal is alleged to have heard of Newton's precocious genius as a mathematician, and to have written to him encouraging letters, when he was only eleven years of age! Newton was not a precocious genius. His great powers were very slowly developed. Till he was sixteen he was occupied with water- and wind-mills and dials; and, as he himself told Mr. Conduitt, his first experiment was made in 1658, when he was sixteen—an experiment, too, indicating very little genius.

3. Newton's mother, under the name of Anne Ayscough, thanks Pascal for his attention to her son; but Anne Ayscough ceased to have that name when Newton was only four years old, and had she written after that time it could only have been as Hannah Smith.

4. The letters of Newton are signed *I. Newton* and *Isaac Newton*. Newton's letters of correspondence were always signed *Is. Newton*; the only exception I know being when he signed *Isaac Newton* to a long scientific communication to Boyle.

5. According to the alleged correspondence, Newton received at least two hundred manuscripts and notes from Pascal, which he offered to return; but it does not appear that the offer was accepted.

6. Newton never wrote in French; his letters to Varignon and other French savants were always written in Latin.

7. The letters contain internal evidence that they were not written by Newton. He never could have expressed an eternal gratitude for the kindness of his friend.

8. An examination of the handwriting and of the paper by an English expert will, doubtless, add to the evidence given above, that the correspondence in question is not genuine. D. BREWSTER.

FLINT IMPLEMENTS.

St. Mary Bourne, Aug. 17, 1867.

It would appear that this neighbourhood must have been pretty generally occupied by aboriginal tribes, as I have had the good fortune to pick up well-made flint implements almost weekly, having during the last few days found several axes, rudely-wrought slingstones, well-cut cores, scrapers, and other implements, including some finely-pointed tools, which might, perhaps, be named needle-drills. The axes are all of the surface type, and shipped; rubbed implements being quite rare, only

three specimens having been found during two years. Some of the chipped implements, however, show polishing in places. The implements found on the east side of the Upper Test Valley differ somewhat from those taken from the west side. They are more plentiful on the brows overlooking the watercourses; and it is likely that similar specimens might be met with on many of the hills bordering other pleasant water-valleys of Hampshire. A very rude lump of heavy, fine-grit sandstone was ploughed up, a few weeks ago, in a field where flint implements abound, which has the appearance of an ancient grain-rubber. Its under surface is rudely cut and convex—the upper surface being concave, and showing friction-marks.

JOSEPH STEVENS.

BONE-FIRES.

Connemara, Aug. 15, 1867.

SOME time since there was a discussion in the *Athenæum* on the origin of the word "Bone-fire." Those letters were called to mind on St. John's Eve (June 23rd), when the Beltaine fires were blazing on the surrounding hills; more especially when I found from inquiries then made that they are called in Irish *Tsinné knáiv*,—*Anglicè*, "Bone-fires"; and that part of the rite is burning in them a bone, no matter how small. Moreover, after the fire is well lighted, each villager carries off a lighted coal to put in one of his fields; they also walk round it with the course of the sun, repeating prayers; some of them also jump over it, but this latter performance does not seem to be part of the religious ceremony.

The Beltaine would seem to be as controverted a point as the origin of the Round Towers; and of it the Rev. W. Kilbride, Vicar of Aran, says, "Dr. O'Connor states, 'St. Patrick lighted the Paschal fire at Slane, in 433, at the same time that King Laeghaire was celebrating the festival of Bealtaine at Tara,' and thus concludes: 'Now Easter Day in 433 agreed with the vernal equinox; therefore the Beltaine concurred with that time of the year.' Dr. Petrie, however, does not agree with him, and rejects his inferences, but at the same time does not enter into the arguments, nor tell the grounds of his total dissent from Dr. O'Connor. Dr. O'Donovan, in his Preface to the 'Book of Rights,' agrees with Dr. Petrie, and tries to upset Dr. O'Connor on all points. Lanigan and others torture this subject, and after pages on Druidism, seem still to leave all in shadow and doubt.

"Dr. O'Donovan says, 'In the account given of the Bealtaine in Cormac's 'Glossary,' as quoted in Petrie's 'Antiquities of Tara Hill,' no time is specified for the lighting of it, nor could we be able from these or from any other written evidence, yet discovered, to decide in what season it was lighted, were it not that the 1st of May is still universally called, in Irish, *La Bealtaine*.' But Dr. O'Connor argues that this name was applied in pagan times to the 21st of March, and that it was transferred to the 1st of May by the early Christians to agree with a Christian festival. This, however, is contrary to a tradition which still prevails in many parts of Ireland, namely, that the fires lighted in pagan times on the 1st of May were transferred by St. Patrick to the 24th of June—[*quare*, ought not this to be the 23rd of June, St. John's Eve?]—in honour of St. John the Baptist, on the eve of whose festival they still light bonfires in every county in Ireland, and not on the 1st of May, except in Dublin, where they continue to light them on the 1st of May also."

"Two derivations are given for the word, 'Beltaine,' the name of the first day of summer, is thus explained. *Beltine*, i.e. *biltine*, i.e. lucky-fire, i.e. two fires which were to be made by the lawgivers or Druids, and they used to drive the cattle between them to guard against the diseases of each year.

"*Bel-dine*. Bel was the name of an idol god. It was on it (i.e. that day) that the firstling of every kind of cattle used to be exhibited as in the possession of Bel.

"These may account for the varieties of ways it is spelt. In English it has always the May spelling, while in Irish the difference in spelling arises from the way in which the writers understood the

word. May not the bones burnt in the fires be derived from the custom of driving the firstlings of the cattle through the fires to preserve them from disease, and the coals that each villager carries away represent the coals anciently taken from the Beltaine fires to light the hearths on which the common fires were extinguished?"

G. H. KINAHAN.

ENGLAND'S PARNASSUS.

Maldenhead, Aug. 20, 1867.

THE words "capital reprint," which the *Athenæum* kindly applies to my new edition of 'England's Parnassus,' do not properly belong to that work, although, I hope, they express the character of most of my other reproductions (above sixty in number) issued during the last four or five years.

'England's Parnassus,' just completed, is not a mere reprint, for it purposely varies from the original impression in not fewer than a thousand places, where the correct readings of the different poets are restored from the works themselves, to the exclusion of the grossest and most absurd corruptions, introduced or passed over by the editor of 1600. During the last forty or fifty years I have amused myself, at intervals, by tracing the two or three thousand quotations of which the work consists to their sources in the productions, not merely of Shakspeare or Spenser, with which most educated people are familiar, but of some of the obscure and voluminous poets of the reigns of Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, Mary, and Elizabeth. I have collated and corrected the extracts in at least 1,500 instances; and whereas in the original edition only the bare names of the authors are given, I have pointed out, in the briefest manner, the exact whereabouts of most of the selected passages. In the course of my labours I have restored many remarkable quotations to their true owners; and when I say that such notorious cases of this kind occur as the assignment of Gaunt's speech in 'Richard the Second' to Drayton, and the commencement of Spenser's 'Mother Hubbard's Tale' to Greene, a notion may be formed of the havoc made, in this respect, as regards minor poets.

Thus, although I have not inserted a single additional citation, nor attempted a single conjectural emendation, what I have done for the fifty recipients of my 'England's Parnassus' is to present them with a new edition, and not with a mere reprint. The whole cost of the five parts, of which it consists, is only 2l. 6s. Dividing the expense of print, paper, and transcript into fifty portions, I at first calculated that the charge for fifty copies would only be two guineas, but, in the end, I found that it would a little exceed that sum. Inasmuch as my 'General Introduction' to the whole would have occasioned a still further excess, I have made my friends a present of it. Those who do not need it may reject it; but I may, perhaps, be allowed to add that it contains some literary and biographical novelty, since I show that in all probability Chaucer was not the writer of 'The Testament of Love,' always imputed to him, and that Spenser perhaps had Sidney, and not Shakspeare, in his mind when he wrote—

Our pleasant Willy, ah! is dead of late.

My chief object in now writing is to show that my edition of 'England's Parnassus' is far from being a repetition of all the original blunders and deficiencies, especially as regards references to the works quoted; and, although I have tenaciously adhered to the old copy in giving every poet's name exactly as it stands there, I have in my brief notes, never occupying more than a line, corrected all the misattributions (if there be such a word) that came within my knowledge. I am confident that these alone amount to more than a hundred.

I am afraid of occupying too much space with these self-trumpetings of trifles; but they may be excused by the reflection that my circulation is so limited, and my expenditure necessarily so contracted, that the cost of advertising is out of the question. Moreover, I have always found the *Athe-*

nam a willing and convenient channel for literary information. I have been often obliged by it.

I will only add that I am now engaged upon what may be strictly called a *reprint* of the 'Epitaphs, Epigrams, Songs, and Sonnets' of George Turberville, from the unique copy of 1567. The cost of each of fifty copies, in two or three parts, will not, I think, exceed 20s.; and, as I have some vacancies on my list, I shall be happy to insert the name of any gentleman who will furnish me with that small sum in anticipation. Payment beforehand I am obliged to make a *sine qua non*, in order that I may avoid positive loss: my gain, if any, is of a different kind.

J. PAYNE COLLIER.

MERCATOR'S MAP OF THE EMPIRE OF
PRESTER JOHN.

Bekesbourne, Aug. 19, 1867.

In your impression of last week, my friend, Mr. John Hogg, is so good as to direct my attention to Mercator's Map of the "Empire of the Abyssinians, or of Prester John," published in 1623, as embodying most of the modern discoveries in the Lake Regions of Central Africa.

I would avail myself of your columns to state, in reply, that twenty years ago I pointed out and explained the fundamental error of that map and others of the same character, in my paper 'On the Nile and its Tributaries,' printed in the seventeenth volume of the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*.

In the hope that my explanation may serve to prevent maps of that age from being any longer referred to as authorities for anything but the opinions prevailing at the date of their construction, I would request you to find room for the following extract from my said paper.

After stating my reasons for the opinion that the Nile has its origin in the country of "Móno-Moézi," I proceed thus:—

"This is, however, only a reproduction of the long-discarded and almost-forgotten opinion of the Portuguese writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, who concur generally in stating that the Nile flows from lake Zambre, in the empire of *Móno-Moézi*, which country they further describe as lying immediately round the 'Mountains of the Moon.'

"It is true that the river 'Nile' which they thus make to flow from lake Zambre is not the Bahr el Abyad, but the Takui, the western arm of the Bahr el Azrek. But this is an error, the origin and progress of which may readily be traced; and its detection will serve to explain how it has happened that, in the maps of Africa of the seventeenth century, the empire of Abyssinia is stretched out so far to the S. and W. as to cover almost the whole of the interior of the African continent. The state of the case is briefly as follows:—

"By Ptolemy we are informed that the river of Egypt is composed of three great arms, the Astaboras, the Astapus, and the Nilus. Of these the Astapus flows from lake Coloë, while the Nilus is formed of two rivers, having their sources in the 'Mountains of the Moon,' each of which rivers passes through a lake before uniting to form the Nilus. This statement of Ptolemy forms the groundwork on which the Portuguese engrafted the positive information obtained by them in their possessions on both shores of the continent and likewise in Abyssinia. In the former they became acquainted with the great lake, called by them Zambre, from which the Nile of Egypt was said to flow, and which lake they had no difficulty in identifying with the easternmost of Ptolemy's two lakes. Of the other lake described by that geographer as lying far to the W. they appear to have had no knowledge. In Abyssinia, on the other hand, they ascertained the existence of the Tákkazie and Abáí, and became acquainted with the fact that the latter flows through lake Tsána; so that they readily identified those two rivers with the Astaboras and Astapus, and lake Tsána with the Coloë of Ptolemy. Thus far all was clear, and (as now appears) in accordance with the truth. Of the western arm of the Nilus of the Greek geographer they knew absolutely nothing; and of its eastern arm they appear only to have learned, in

a general way, that it came from lake Zambre. With its course as the Bahr el Abyad they were personally unacquainted, and from the Abyssinians they were not likely to learn anything, owing to the ignorance of that people even of that river's existence. But they did learn in Abyssinia that the *Bahr el Azrek* was, as it still is, considered by the natives to be the true Nile and the Gihon of Genesis, and that it is composed of three rivers, the Tákkazie, the Abáí, and the Takui; and as they identified the two former with the Astaboras and Astapus, it was only natural that they should regard the remaining river, the Takui, as the Nilus. This identification having once been adopted, it followed as a necessary consequence that the Takui—the pseudo-Nilus—must have its origin in lake Zambre; and that it does so is expressly asserted by De Barros. But the sources of the Takui are not less expressly described by the same writer as being situate in Shínasha, Dámot, and Bizámo, all well-known provinces of Southern Abyssinia; and as the Portuguese who visited that country prior to the commencement of the seventeenth century appear not to have possessed the means of determining the latitude so as absolutely to fix the position of those distant provinces, there was no good reason why those provinces should not accompany the Takui, in its character of the Nile, southwards into the vicinity of lake Zambre, the latitude of which was approximately known from the settlements in Kongo and Sofálah. The error, great as it was, did not, however, terminate here. Lake Tsána (Coloë), from which the Abáí, the central stream of Abyssinia, issues, was known to be situate in or near to the province of Gódjam, which province was in like manner known to border on Shínasha, Dámot, and Bizámo; and as these latter provinces had been removed to the neighbourhood of lake Zambre, in company with the Takui, there was no alternative but to carry Gódjam, with the Abáí and lake Tsána, in like manner away to the S.; so that it resulted that this latter lake was made to usurp the place of the Zambre, and to become Ptolemy's eastern lake. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Portuguese Jesuits, by observing (if even roughly) the altitude of the Pole in Abyssinia, and likewise by tracing the curve of the Abáí round Gódjam, were enabled to correct this fundamental error in African geography, so far as the Abáí and lake Tsána are concerned. But they had, of course, no means of appreciating the mistake with respect to the Bahr el Abyad; and as by that time the southern provinces of Abyssinia were overrun by the Gallas, the Jesuits would seem not even to have acquired any knowledge of the Takui, or western arm of the Bahr el Azrek. The confusion in the maps remaining thus inexplicable, the information of the early Portuguese, which is really most valuable if understood, has been tacitly allowed by later geographers to sink into oblivion." (Note. In the original, throughout, the name "Zambre" was written "Zambeze," in which I followed Mr. Cooley, as explained in the *Athenæum* of August 3.)

A fac-simile of a portion of Mercator's map accompanies Mr. Hogg's paper 'On some Old Maps of Africa,' of which he was so obliging as to send me a separate copy, at the time of its publication in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature*, in 1864; and it is so striking an example of what is stated above, that I would ask you to insert the following list of names, which are there all placed near, and most of them to the south of, the Equator, but which are now all known to lie to the north of 10° N. lat., as they, in fact, are laid down in the map to my work, 'The British Captives in Abyssinia':—

Mercator's Map.

Damut.
Amara.
Quara.
Sibit.

Barcena.
Gorga.
Agug.
Onchit fl.
Ougne.

My Map.

Damot.
Amhara.
Kwara (the Emperor Theodore's native province).
Zebit (Theodore's new capital, burnt down last year by the Waagshum).
Bahr Tsana.
Gorgora.
Agasus.
Wanchit R.
Goangue R.

To these may be added the following well-known names not in my map:—

Bilibranas.
Ambian.
Oafates.
Sibit.
Anda.
Debra Libanos.
Tombyen.
Gafat (not the village near Debra Tabor, but the country of the Gafats in Damot).
Zebit Myeda (the province not marked by me).
Adowa?

And doubtless others might be detected.

CHARLES BEKE.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Prof. Tyndall, Dr. Percy and Mr. Barry, a committee appointed to report on the best means for improving the acoustic qualities of the House of Lords, have recommended that they shall be permitted to postpone full consideration of the subject until the beginning of next session.

A letter addressed by Dr. Gray, the eminent naturalist, to Dr. Sharpey, Secretary of the Royal Society, on the subject of Sir Joseph Banks's grave, has been sent to us for publication:—

"British Museum, Aug. 20, 1867.

"My dear Sir,—Mr. John Smith, the late curator of the Kew Gardens, having mentioned to me that he was the only person now living who knew where Sir Joseph Banks was buried, not finding it in Weld's Biography, I wrote to the Rev. E. Spooner, the Vicar of Heston, near Hounslow, the place Mr. Smith indicated, to make inquiry, and received the following reply: 'Sir Joseph Banks was buried in Heston Church in 1820. During the late rebuilding it was found necessary to open the vault; his coffin was seen there with the name on it in a very good state of repair. There is no tablet of any sort put up to his memory.' I have caused a white marble mural tablet to be put up in the church, inscribed:—'In this church is buried the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., C.B., President of the Royal Society from 1778 to 1820. Died at Spring Grove, 19th of June, 1820, aged 77.' Sir Joseph Banks was a rare, I may say a unique, example of a country gentleman of large fortune, devoting it and his time and energies to the promotion of science, making his house the rendezvous of the scientific men of all nations. I owe much of my success in life to Sir Joseph Banks's kindness and liberality. Dr. Leach introduced me to him in 1816, and he allowed me to have free use of his library and collection, thus enabling me to study botany and zoology, and to become acquainted with the scientific men of the period. I am, my dear Sir, yours sincerely,
JOHN EDW. GRAY.

"Dr. Sharpey, Royal Society."—The case of neglect pointed out by Dr. Gray is certainly remarkable. Banks was President of the Royal Society for many years, at a period of very great scientific distinction and activity; and he was one of the few Englishmen who were known to the whole world of continental experimenters. The members of the French Institute elected him a member of their body while the conflict between France and England was still raging.

Appropos to the death of Mrs. Sarah Austin, a biographical notice of whom appeared in the *Athenæum* last week, we understand that an *édition de luxe* of the much-admired 'Story without an End,' referred to by us, will be published in the autumn by Messrs. Cundall & Fleming, of Old Bond Street. This edition will comprise sixteen coloured drawings by "E. V. B." (the Hon. Mrs. Boyle), as reproduced in chromo-zylography. This lady, whose charming illustrations to 'Child's Play'—a series of nursery rhymes—are remembered by all artists, is about to issue, through the same publishers, and in photography, an illustrated work styled 'A Book of Day Dreams,' which will contain about a dozen original drawings.

The late Roxburghe Club volumes keep up their prices as well as the early ones. A copy of Mr. Henry H. Gibbs's present to the Club, 'Sir Genesides' (ed. Furnivall) lately sold by auction for six guineas; and for the three volumes of the 'Saint Graal—History of, Queste I.'—a London bookseller is now asking 12l. 2s. When will buyers take to buying for worth and not for scarcity or

fashion? There will be a revolution in the book-trade when that good time comes.

Mr. Walford is busy on a new and enlarged edition of his 'County Families,' which will appear, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, early next year.

The Committee of the Newspaper Press Fund have a good report to make for the year ending July 31st. The annual dinner, over which Mr. Gladstone presided so efficiently, produced donations to the amount of £807. "The number of members now on the roll-book of the Society is 200, of whom 139 are annual and the remaining 61 life members; the whole being composed of 142 metropolitan and 58 country members. Seven new life members have been elected since the last annual meeting. Two members of the institution have died, and in each case the widow has received a liberal grant from the Fund. Other grants have also been made to applicants for relief from temporary embarrassments." All this is good report.

Prof. Key adds some particulars on the subject the Latin Dictionary:—

"Eastbourne, Aug. 19, 1867.
"Allow me to make two additions to the paragraph which bears my name in your last number. My collaborator, Dr. W. Wagner, is taking a far larger share in the work than that which you assign to him. His varied, extensive and exact knowledge of the Latin language enables him to give me substantial aid in the most difficult parts of the task upon which I am labouring. He will, therefore, be entitled to have his name on the title-page as really one of the authors. Secondly, although the materials I have collected are extensive, it is premature to say that we are engaged in finishing the Latin Dictionary. A vast amount of work lies yet before us.—Yours, &c., J. HEWITT KEY."

Anent the thorough study of English at schools, which we have so often advocated, we notice with pleasure that at Uppingham Grammar School, over which Mr. Thring, the author of 'The Principles of Grammar and English Gradual,' presides, "there will be an examination, after Easter every year, in the English language and literature, open to all boys under sixteen years of age on the 1st of March each year. The first will take place at Easter, 1868; and there will be awarded a scholarship of 20*l.*, tenable at the school for two years, one prize of 10*l.*, one of 5*l.*, six prizes of 1*l.* For boys under thirteen years of age, one prize of 10*l.*, one of 5*l.*, four prizes of 1*l.* Also a prize of 10*l.*, open to boys of all ages. The holder of the scholarship is not eligible for this. There will always be one or more passages set from Shakspeare, Spenser, and Wordsworth." We believe this is the only school in the United Kingdom where there is a scholarship for English only, as the City of London School is the only one where 'Piers Plowman' is read.—By the way, Mr. Skeat's edition of 'Piers Plowman's Crede' is to be issued at half-a-crown by the Early English Text Society, specially for schools.

Fifteen tailors have been held to bail on a charge of conspiracy. The trial is expected to raise a question of archeology, as they now call it. The defendants will contend that, by the common principle of law, no number of tailors under eighteen can conspire. On the part of the Crown it will be answered that the plea is a mere misconstruction of the old maxim that it takes nine tailors to make a man. This the prosecutors confidently expect to show is of the time of Charles the Second, and means that no man can be properly made up without the services of nine tailors on different parts of his dress. Some say the Lord Chamberlain will be called; but we believe the impression of the bar to be that, by the policy of the law, this functionary, under a female sovereign, is supposed to know nothing about the matter.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have issued, under the title of Globe Edition, an atlas of the European States. The plan of this volume is very good; indeed, so good that we shall expect to find many other charts and tables, usually printed on sheets, produced in a similar manner. Each page contains a map, or part of a map, of some country, fairly well printed and coloured. All the maps are drawn to one scale—an immense advantage, since the

eye takes in a whole series of historical and geographical comparisons at a single glance. A copious index of names renders the reference to any particular place easy.

Mr. W. G. Wills, author of 'The Man o' Airlie,' writes:—

"August 16, 1867.
"Having been out of town, I did not see till today the very kindly-meant notice of my play, 'The Man o' Airlie,' in the *Athenæum*, when I was much surprised to find myself called an adapter. There is simply not the slightest resemblance between my plot and that of Von Holtie in either incident, motive, character or meaning, save in the last act, when the hero returns, in the German piece, an old beggar, and meeting his former friends and "old love," is recognized, whilst the audience is informed that he is famous. The statue-scene is wholly my own. The critic of the *Times*, who knew both plots, begins his notice by the words, 'Mr. Wills is fully entitled to the honour of original authorship'; again, 'Mr. Wills has departed widely from the outlines of Von Holtie.' I should be much obliged if you would find room for this letter in your paper, in consideration of the mischief that such an assertion uncontradicted would do to me as a dramatist.—I am, &c., W. G. WILLS."

It was supposed that, when Miss Elizabeth Blackwell presented herself to the medical world, there was something quite new under the sun. But so far from this being the case, she was not even the first of her name. In 1737, we find that another Elizabeth Blackwell published her 'Herbal, containing 500 Cuts of the Plants most useful in Physic, engraved by her, with Descriptions,' Lond., 2 vols. fol. This work is described as having been republished in Germany more than once, with augmentations. Once, for instance, by C. J. Trew, of Nuremberg, in 1750.

The men who write sensational Irish news for our New York contemporaries are especially comic in the matter of geography. Thus, in the wonderful account, contributed to the *New York Times*, of the voyage of an imaginary Fenian ship, the different bays and headlands in Ireland are exquisitely confused. The phantom ship called the *Plato*, perhaps out of compliment to the Milesians, first sights land at Tory island (Torry in the Yankee dialect), which is described as a free kingdom unknown to the English tyrants, governed by a native king, elected by universal male suffrage, in which the old Erse is still spoken by everybody. This will be news to the islanders, after what has been done by the English in the way of lighthouse and other matters. Sailing from Tory island to the mainland of Donegal, the phantom ship drops into Kinsale, and lands some of her men,—a very improper proceeding, and certainly likely to mislead the English fleet, since the whole length of Ireland lies between Donegal and Kinsale. However, at Kinsale the Fenians hear of a frigate being about, and, getting alarmed, they put to sea, and not being chased, they return to the coast of Wexford (south-east corner of Ireland), where they put into Bantry Bay (in the south-west), actually "passing under the nose of an English vessel without being questioned." After quitting Bantry Bay (in Wexford), the *Plato* coasts Waterford, on her way, apparently, towards Antrim, in one of the bays of which county (called Antrim Bay, a name unknown to geography) the Fenians land; but not liking the reports of the people in Ulster, which is hardly surprising, the people of Antrim being mostly Orangemen, they sail "in a north-easterly direction" for the Lough of Belfast. To their great astonishment, we should say, they actually find the Lough, since every map we have consulted shows that the Lough of Belfast lies exactly in the opposite direction to that in which they sail from Antrim. The *Plato* returns to America, carrying with her as the result of her voyage a conviction that the English fleet does not guard the coast so effectually as to prevent pirates from throwing considerable bodies of men on our shores. But, after all, it may be urged in defence of our neglect that our sailors are men who work by wit, and not by witchcraft. We can hardly expect the Warrior to catch the Flying Dutchman. We doubt,

indeed, whether any amount of watchfulness would enable men, deficient in imagination, to "give a good account" of a strange sail which has power to land men in Kinsale while cruising off Donegal, and to reach the harbour of Belfast by sailing in a north-eastern direction from any bay on the Antrim coast.

The American papers announce the death, at an advanced age, of Miss Catherine Sedgwick, whose 'New England Tale,' followed by other novels, gained her a reputation at home and also on this side of the Atlantic. She came many years ago to England, and published on her return to America one of those sore books of travels by which her literary countrymen and countrywomen return the attentions which are shown them on not a niggardly scale when they visit the Old World.

An awful warning to those about to travel in continental countries is given by two maps compiled by Herr Kiepert, and published by Reimer, of Berlin. They represent in colours the nationalities and languages of Germany and the adjacent countries, and of Austria and the States of the Lower Danube, and their moral to Englishmen is only too obvious. The language which predominates throughout them is the German. Not a word is said of French being spoken in Germany and Austria, or even in Switzerland and Italy. As for "English spoken"—that favourite placard in Paris shops—its absence is total. The tourist will look with despair over the wide surface of Europe, and either engage a courier or visit his native lakes, and the oppressed nationalities of Scotland and Ireland on whom he has forced his language. Those who have been already on the Continent will perhaps nourish a lurking hope that the capitals and their hotels are exempt from this universal plague of native dialects. But on this point Herr Kiepert is silent. The fact is, that the maps have a very great ethnographical value, and have not condescended to entertain more general and more frivolous considerations.

A friend in Naples sends us the following notes:—"Some time has elapsed since the discovery was announced of a bronze casket amidst the ruins of Pompeii. It was broken into many fragments, which have now been put together, and form one of the most interesting relics of the unfortunate city. It has been placed in the National Museum, in the famous collection of small bronzes. This artistic novelty is a *chef d'œuvre* of its kind, whether as regards the elegance of its form or the exquisite finish of the work. It is still more remarkable for the beautiful *alto-relievi* with which it is decorated, as well as for the mode of opening it, without any apparent lock, by means of two springs at the termination of the upper angles. It is the first time that such a rarity has been seen in the Museum; for the casket which was long since found in Pompeii, and described by the late Cav. Avellino, was not perfect, and many of the fragments were afterwards lost; nor was its primitive form ever ascertained.—Many other articles of importance, besides the casket, were found at the same time, amongst which is a gold bulla, being now the second which exists in the Museum. The bulla, it is unnecessary to say, was worn on the breast by boys of noble descent, as may be seen on the statue of Nero, which is preserved in the Museum.—A half "tomolo" measure for grain was also found; a knife with an ivory handle, modelled in the shape of a human hand; some drinking-glasses, with a patina quite new to Pompeii; and some agricultural instruments, which merit observation.—At last some progress has been made towards the completion of the column of "Peace," in the Largo della Vittoria. Four Neapolitan sculptors were commissioned to execute each a lion, representing different epochs in the history of this province, and three have already been placed. Of the spirited production of Solari, who executed the beautiful monument erected in the Church of San Giuseppe at Chiaja, I have already spoken. It represents Revolution Triumphant, and by its bold and commanding attitude seems to defy all interference with its victory.—During the winter I alluded to the important discoveries of coal which had been

made in various parts of Southern Italy, through the well-directed and persevering energy of Prof. Cassola. At length, it seems, they have attracted the attention of the Italian Government, and, if report be true, the Minister of Marine has given orders to test, by a series of experiments, the value of Italian combustibles as compared with that of those introduced from foreign countries. In private, such experiments have been made frequently during the last six months, resulting favourably to Italian combustibles."

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES IS ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 54, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of John Phillip, R.A.—Milla, R.A.—Clarkson Stanfield, R.A.—John Linnell—Peter Graham—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—E. M. Ward, R.A.—Eger, R.A.—Firth, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Tidwell, R.A.—Lee, R.A.—Calderson, R.A.—Sant, A.R.A.—Erskine Nicol, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansdel, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—H. O'Neill, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—P. Narmyia—Dolson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—F. Hardy—Lidderdale—George Smith—Gérôme—H. W. B. Davis—Baxter—Burgess—Frère. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART, 25, Old Bond Street.—This Exhibition is NOW OPEN daily, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—See the PARIS EXPOSITION for ONE SHILLING.—Professor Poyser's Lectures on the PALEO DE L'EXPOSITION, daily, at Three and Eight. Amongst the other attractions are, the WONDERFUL LEOTARD, the great Optical Surprise, called the EFFIGY of the DEAR DEFUNCT, and the Musical Entertainments of Dancer Cape, &c.

SCIENCE

Le Duc du Roussillon, &c.—Origines, Migrations, Philologie et Monuments Antiques. Vol. 1^{er}. Première Partie. (Dulau & Co.)

THIS is the first part of a book by the Duke du Roussillon. The chief portion of this volume is devoted to the Scythians, with numerous citations from the classic authors, presenting all the apparatus of a learned work. We shall content ourselves with stating that one basis is the assertion that Belce, a Siberian people, is the same word and thing as Belgæ, generally considered to be a Celtic people, notwithstanding that one is allowed to have dwelt in the Arctic circle, the other in the Low Countries. In these matters it is allowable for Sir Boyle Roche's bird to be in two places at the same time.

It follows, says M. du Roussillon, that in Spain (!) the name Belce or Belgæ was considered as the synonym of Scythian. It follows, or does not follow, that the names of Great and Little Belt in the Baltic were given to them by the Scythians, from the names of the Belce or Belgæ, unless the Belce or Belgæ took their names from the Great and Little Belt: upon this we may take our choice.

After believing either of these alternatives, or both at once, we may be prepared to believe, as the Scythians called themselves Skolots, and as there were Belce opposite to an island which may have been Iceland, that "I have, by studying with much attention the toponomy of Iceland and Denmark, had occasion to observe that many names of places exhibit this same radical, with which was formed the word Skolot. Here are some that I have marked down: Skovlund, Skaloë, Skuldolov, Skovbolle, Skovenge, Skalsbye, Skoohoved, Skialderup, Skaarup, Skallebolle, Skov, Skelund, Skel, Skerup, Skovloged, Skoven, Skovhuus, Skelund, Skolehuus, Skovboe, Skialkandi, Skaga, Skulul, Skakwick, Skaalnolts, Skolols, Skagen, Skaalanes, Skalladur, Skudur, Skole, Skalfand, Skaldolagr, Skaplax, Skalbrid, Skorradal, Skolahraun, Skholt, Skutils, Skotu, Skialdabarnar, Skagras, Skal, Skalarstupi, Skaldaboar, Skallmin, Skialdmeyar, Skalholt."

Our readers may think we are imposing upon them, but such is a small sample, and the first that comes to hand, of the labour of M. du Roussillon. Skolehuus, Skaplax and Skoohoved contain the same radical as Skolot, whatever

Skolot may mean, just as much as School, Sheep and Shoe do. We are to credit the villages of Iceland as named by Skolot Scythians, when we thought we could depend upon one historical fact that Iceland was, at a known time, peopled with Norsemen, and with the evidence of our own ears that the names are Norse! Skolehuus derived from Skolot, or analogous to it! Now, if a man can so deal with a late and well-known historical period, and with languages accessible in their lexicography, presenting words recognizable on a slight converseance with a Germanic language, what faith can we have as to his dealings with obscure periods, doubtful tribes, and indeterminate philology?

The book, so far as it has gone, is pure and simple trash; but if we said no more, our verdict would soon be forgotten, and the learned work of the eminent philologist, the Duke du Roussillon, 'Origines, Migrations,' &c., might be quoted as an authority upon any branch of ancient ethnology, the more assuredly as we find that M. du Roussillon has already favoured the Royal Society of Literature with one of his lucubrations, and has published 'Origines' in London for our benefit, with the prospect of forthcoming parts.

There are portions of the book with which the general public cannot deal so easily as with Skolehuus and Skaplax; for we have Sanchoniathon, Manetho and Berosus, and all their brethren, let loose upon us. Still M. du Roussillon himself would hardly deserve much attention if it were not that he has many colleagues industriously labouring in their vocation. Rising sciences are checked by these exhibitions of false learning. Ethnology, with philology, comparative grammar, primitive dwellings and implements, hieroglyphic and cuneiform decipherment, altogether constitute a development of interesting discoveries and assured results, illustrating history in advance of our written annals, forming new canons of chronology, and throwing light upon that greatest study, the study of man and of mankind—man in the individual and the aggregate. It is time the standing of these members of the world of science should be established, their professors recognized, and their charlatans discountenanced, as we have eliminated false science from other branches of knowledge, purified astronomy and chemistry, got rid of *lusus nature* from geology and paleontology, improved the theory of light, worked out electro-magnetism, organized statistics, and endowed the world with rational studies pursued by rational methods.

The practitioners of charlatanism in the incipient stage of a science are permissible auxiliaries; though men in buckram, they swell the muster-roll; they contribute to the material resources for progress, and their industry in wrong and right directions leads often to explorations of utility. Though the will-o'-the-wisp too generally leads them into swamps and bogholes, he may bring them on to a solid path leading through the marsh, or flounder them among ancient relics hidden in a remote pool. When, however, a science has made progress and attained a settled state, then the charlatans and quacks are a fearful nuisance. They impede the professors, mislead and deter students, and, as unprofitable drones, waste the honey of the hive.

Your learned quack is not very readily found out by the well-informed public, and it is because the public has general information, without the special information of the professor, that the pseudo-authority flourishes: only let him issue something that cannot be at once rung on a table or a counter, but requiring

difficult tests by technical operators. He may revel as a great mathematician for a score of years, till an unraveller of paradoxes arises. If cosmogony be his forte, he can deal as he pleases with the precession of the equinoxes, and sway the axis of his pole as he wills. He has the whole range of theology and phrenology, the number of the beast and the millennium, and his own interpretations of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. Should statistics enlist him, he may prove what he likes; a cipher too much or too little matters not, if he is only sagacious enough to be precise in his odd numbers.

Philology is, however, a noble speciality; for that, as Voltaire stated above a hundred years ago, vowels are nothing, and consonants matter very little, and sham philology has held out against the ridicule of Molière, Voltaire, Fielding and Goldsmith. A man who knows no language but his own may decipher cuneiform inscriptions or translate Syriac; for dictionaries are made for such purposes. Derivation is a fine field for exercise. He may, if he likes, derive "cab" from the Coptic, and if told it is a recent abbreviation from *cabriolet*, derive that again from the Chinese. He has this enormous resource, that all languages are freely open to him, unrestrained by any consideration of fitness or affinity. If he cannot get the required word in Tibetan, he may try Zulu, affiliate that on Algonquin, engraft on Manchoo, ramify into Samoan, and avail himself of the repertory of Kamtchatka. Up go the cups, balls and daggers, and the bewildered eye recognizes nothing but the dexterity of the juggler.

This practitioner does not content himself with bookmaking, like M. du Roussillon, because printing does constitute a restrictive duty; but he is a correspondent of certain periodicals, ready on any provocation to solve everything in Hebrew or Phœnician in the appropriate types. In certain societies he gets up during the discussion, and says the word "churn" has been mentioned by one of the speakers: the root of this in Sanskrit is *Sririni*, but it does not mean churn. In Georgian or in Ostiak there is a word which means butter, and in Berber this takes another shape and means water, which is a constituent of milk. In Japanese the word is twofold, but he is not sure of the pronunciation. It means Go-cart. This, in Hebrew and Chaldee, becomes, &c. By-and-bye stands up another speaker, and says their learned friend has drawn from his recondite stores of knowledge, &c. In topography he is at home. You mentioned Kennington. Kennington is derived from the Celtic *Cean*, a head; *ing*, A.S., a meadow; and *tun*, Danish and Frisian, a town or inclosure, meaning the inclosure of the meadow of the Head, or Head Meadow Town, and it must have been a settlement of the ancient British. Why this is so called may be for several reasons: the head of a giant may have been interred in a meadow, and it would be worth while to search for traces of a mound or barrow; but as Kennington was a royal domain, it may have been a head of royal manors in the Anglo-Saxon times. This is no caricature. There is not a county history without plenty of it.

People submit to this nuisance because they do not know how to check it. Who is to have at his fingers' ends the Chinese for brickbat, and the Coptic for dormouse, when pitchforked into an omnium-gatherum? Many a man, who knows the imposture, refrains from exposing it; for the audience would look upon him as unjust, and Scriblerus would, in retort, jump on his own hobby, and come forth in support of his brother. Nevertheless, something should be done to protect us from these pests. The reformation must come from within, as well as

from without: if the public are to become enlightened, the philologists must become more careful.

The truth is, while philology has received the development of a science, and its constitution may be well discerned, it is not pursued in a satisfactory way. The collection of facts with regard to the science of man, and their classification, have made such progress that we can recognize many distinct groups of men and languages; but our knowledge halts, because we are in want of sufficient data. In sober earnest, much of our supposed knowledge is rather delusive than serviceable. We have classified without defining. It is of no more use to divide men into the white race, the yellow race, the black race, the red race, and the brown race, into Caucasians, Mongolians, &c., than to leave us with a natural history merely consisting of mammals, aves, pisces, &c., without distinction of the individual animals. It helps us not that more than half the population of the globe is consigned to a class of allophytes, Mongols, Turanians, or whatever it may be called, set to balance a smaller class of Semites. It is of little avail for general study that we have carried to a high pitch the study of Sanskrit grammar and of the comparative grammar of the Semitic languages; for this has yet to be done for the other great groups, and the same with regard to each branch of ethnological study. The consequence is, many interesting departments of research languish, and much useless labour is undergone. The full extent of hieroglyphic interpretation, and more particularly of cuneiform decipherment is impeded for want of the subsidiary evidence and means of investigation. Everything is now relegated to the limbo of the Turanians, the great lumber-room of science, increasing the mass of matter, without augmenting the staff of labourers. If Akkad inscriptions are to be deciphered, and it is assumed they are Turanian, or Etruscan or Lycian to be compared, it is considered quite legitimate, and an effort of learning, to pick out and piece together bits of the most unsympathizing languages—Georgian, Fin, Chinese, Circassian, Basque, Mongol, Ossetinian, Tibetan, Etruscan, Manchoo, Magyar, Kamtchatdale, Turkish, Berber, Japanese, Tamil, &c. No satisfactory result follows or can follow; for this is done, although it is recognized that in these agglutinative languages of this so-called class, there is, generally speaking, no conformity of roots and words. Profs. Max Müller and Rawlinson equally lay down this as a canon; so it is like looking for needles in a bottle of hay.

This state of affairs particularly retards that investigation which is first referred to by M. du Roussillon, namely, that of the pre-Chaldean dominion, which Prof. Rawlinson has called Scythian in his work on the Five Great Empires, and in his edition of Herodotus. M. du Roussillon has treated it after his fashion, and of his method we have given a taste. No one can be surprised to learn that according to such an authority the Scythians include the Laps, the Belge, Germani, Celts, Russi, Roxolani, Sarmati, Sauroamate, Slavs, and, indeed, so far as we can make out, every race in the world. We are grateful for one exception, he has not annexed the Turks. Prof. Rawlinson, however, takes Semitic, Scythic and Tatar, and mixes up (Herod. i. 664) Iberians and Indo-Europeans. The labour which M. du Roussillon is impeding, and Prof. Rawlinson advancing, is one which will lead in its accomplishment to important results. Cuneiform decipherment gives us more certain data as to epochs on which we have already information; but the determination of this palæic empire, which Prof. Rawlinson (Herod.

i. 641) states belongs to a Turanian population, will extend the range of history and the annals of civilization, opening up new spring-heads from which streams of knowledge are to be traced.

It is to be regretted that hieroglyphic and cuneiform studies are much impeded by extraneous influences. As they refer to scriptural epochs, the temptation and itching become great to connect profane records with scriptural truths. If a man can assert a possible reference to the passage of the Red Sea or the miracles of a prophet in the records of an unbeliever, he is assured of a ready audience and of popular applause, and this process he may repeat many times, leaving his previous assertions unconfirmed, and withdrawing them from his matured publications. Although the Israelites occupied such a small part in the regions extending from Media to the Upper Nile, they are made the main pivot in these transactions, dwarfing the whole by their own small proportions. We have got over the restraints on classification of Shem, Ham and Japhet and the Tower of Babel; but we are still embarrassed by the attempts to reconcile history with the Books of Kings and Chronicles.

The difficulties of these pursuits are indeed numerous, and the wonder is, not that there should be any failures, but that so much should have been done. If we reflect for a moment on actual ethnology, on facts within our own ken, we shall understand the stumbling-blocks which trip up the student. Language is an important test when it is the language of the race; but when it is an acquired language, it ceases to be of value. Thus in our own territories, English is a test in this eastern island, but in the western island it is no test. In the boyhood of some of us, Irish was spoken more or less by five millions of Irish, and now the greater number of the population is English-speaking. Thus we have to discriminate between an original and an acquired language. Then, again, take our own people,—they are variously called English, Saxons, Anglo-Saxons, Britons, Britishers. These terms suggest mistakes, for the so-called Saxons, now inhabiting Saxony, are an intrusive population, not of our race. British means the ancient and previous inhabitants of the island, by whom the country of Wales is inhabited. Welsh is a term not acknowledged by the people to whom we apply it. Then there is Scot, applied indiscriminately to the Celtic population of the Highlands and the Germanic population of the Lowlands. In Ireland, Irish is equally applied to the main Celtic population of the island, or to the Germanic population of the north. In France, the chief population is still Celtic, but called French after the Frank invaders; while the language has been derived from the Roman possessors, and belongs to the Latin stock. In a general point of view, we call the whole people of that country French, and yet there are French-speaking Celts, Breton-speaking Celts, Flemings, Alsatians, Ligurians, and Basques.

Let us remember the famous word Tatar, or Tartar. What does it mean? It is indiscriminately applied to Turks, Mongols and Manchoes. It includes the fine-featured, cultivated and settled Osmanlee, and the flat-faced, wandering Kalmuck. Such terms used loosely by travellers and writers embarrass inquiry. The facts are equally embarrassing; for a Mongol chief may command a horde of Mongols and Turks, and a Turkish chief a horde of Turks and Mongols.

It is with greater difficulties we encounter such questions as those of Scythians, Iberians, Pelasgians; for we know not what nations the classic writers may have treated as Scy-

thians, and the information we have is filtered through two languages of imperfect phonetic representation, the Greek and Latin, neither of which can represent *ch* or *sh*, and their writers derived their information from most imperfect sources. See what happens to us in this day. Take a traveller in Asia, Sir Charles Fellows, for instance. He provides himself in the seaport with an interpreter, who is a Christian and a Greek, having so imperfect a knowledge of the language of the Turks in the interior that he cannot pronounce the sounds. The result is curious. The Turks use *ch*, *sh* and *J*; so did Sir Charles Fellows, but he never got the name of a place right, for it all passed through his learned dragoman, in whom he had more confidence than in his own ears, and thus his topography is sometimes unrecognizable. *Ch* became *ts*, *sh* became *s*, and *J* became *ds*. Many a sound of Scythian must have been stopped out by Herodotus and his followers. This is altogether apart from the changes which may have taken place in the pronunciation of a language. In adopting Greek words having a *theta*, the Armenians and Georgians each use a peculiar letter; but the *theta* sound is lost in modern Armenian, although there is reason to believe it formerly existed, and it is still said to be used in some provincial dialects. While in philology there are features as durable as the thick lips of the negro in ethnology, there are others apparently subject to secular change, perhaps to alteration even from a people changing its locality.

It is only where we can trace out and affiliate some modern tribe or language that we get assistance and assurance as to the ancient. Thus Coptic helps us for hieroglyphic, Persian for cuneiform, Basque for the Iberian. So modern ethnology helps the study of the ancient, and ancient ethnology promotes the knowledge of modern nations. Architectural remains and monuments without inscriptions likewise tell their tale. What serve us least at present are the human remains, whether existing or non-existent. Skulls, like nations and languages, have been subjected to the average process, and classification has been so simplified, or rather narrowed to nothingness, as to eliminate all points of distinction. The dolichocephalic skull and the brachycephalic skull figure as largely and as loosely as Mongol and Turanian, and mean as little. Dolichocephalic and brachycephalic skulls, long and short, are found together; but when separated, we are no wiser as to the tribes to which they belong, and which philology and history must teach us. At present, nations are fitted to the skulls *ad libitum*, as skulls might be fitted to the sundry skeletons. The soil of a country and the mode of disposal of the dead may, too, affect our conclusion. Some soils rapidly decompose bodies; on the other side, some nations burn or destroy the remains. In a country now inhabited by Turks and Greeks, although the latter might be more numerous, the land would be covered with Turkish graves, each individual in a single grave, while the few Greek graveyards would hardly furnish a skull, as the bodies are buried in common graves with quicklime. Thus the only ethnological evidence we should obtain would be as to the Turks. Of many ancient nations we shall most likely not find a bone, nor will all the bones in the world furnish the texture of the hair, the colour of the iris, or the tint of the skin; and yet in the end we may find conclusive evidence. Where physical remains may fail, linguistic materials may be available; and where not a word of the language may be recoverable, some monuments will yield us the required testimony.

There are languages which are the charnel-

houses of archaic speech. Built up, layer after layer, of the remains of extinct nations, there is no telling what we may find in the end, as our means of recognition increase. Some word, some idiom, may be rescued, for the forms of speech often live when all root-words have decayed. We recognize the Arabic words in Spanish, and the Lombard words in Italian; but wider researches may display to us forms of Iberian and of the long-lost dialects. Those resemblances of language which now appear casual may prove to relate to some earlier or larger law, such as those resemblances between Tibetan or Caucasian and the American languages, between the Ugrian and Housa languages in the euphony of vowels, and between the English and Turkish idioms. The caprices in the lot of a word are varied, as are the destinies of men and nations. Surely we should think in a language so straightly descended from ancient Greek as Romaic, the words for bread, water, wine and fish, Indo-European roots, would be handed down; and yet these are replaced by provincial terms, while meat, salt and oil are preserved.

There must, therefore, be a better distribution of labour both in ethnology and philology, for as yet the ground is not well covered, the labourers being concentrated on a few mines. The force now employed in the colleges of Europe in studying Sanskrit grammar from text-books does not advance one jot the progress of knowledge in that respect; but if part of this force were devoted to the little-known nations and tongues, he who acquires a mass of facts. As in agriculture, he who grows a blade of grass where one grew not before is a benefactor, so is he a benefactor in philology who studies some untried language, and gives his labours to the world. A greater attention to linguistic studies is also very desirable. The man who contents himself with what is called a philological knowledge of a language, which means the use of a printed dictionary, but seldom derives solid results from his materials; while the study and comparison of a living language in its entirety and as a speaking medium, give strength to the student, and can hardly fail to yield fruits.

By so enlarging the bounds of knowledge, and by so achieving certain results, we shall check the efforts of charlatanism, and advance the cause of science. In a national point of view, the sciences of which we have been speaking have strong claims upon us; for though we encourage ourselves to look upon foreign scholars with admiration, and accept any demand of superiority, yet from the time of Sir William Jones at least these are fields in which we have been the chief labourers, and in which we have furnished the chief materials to others. Our occupation of India, our long settlement in America, our explorations of Africa, Australia and Polynesia, our voyages of circumnavigation and discovery, have afforded us topics of research of which we have not been neglectful, while many are the foreigners who have been employed by us in those domains. Even in those departments which we have shared with others, as hieroglyphic and cuneiform interpretation, we have taken distinguished positions, nor have we been without mark in Chinese, Arabic and Persian studies. Our Asiatic Societies and their allies have trained bodies of eminent labourers, and if our scholars have received less encouragement from the State and less applause from the public than in other countries, their efforts have not been less successful nor their results less enduring.

FINE ARTS

MEMLING'S TRIPTYCH.

WE have received from Messrs. Candall & Fleming a properly-mounted, complete and capital photograph, from the most interesting picture in the National Portrait Exhibition of last year, being the famous triptych by Memling, formerly—but rather absurdly—scribed to Van Eyck, and now at Chiswick, the property of the Duke of Devonshire. This work is commonly known as "The Donne Triptych," because it represents Sir John Donne and his wife, the donors of the picture, as introduced to the Virgin and Child by their patronesses, SS. Catherine and Barbara. Walpole and others who did not notice the arms and badges of the Donne family and Yorkist faction, described these persons as Lord and Lady Clifford; but the white lion of March and the collars of roses and suns, as worn by the donors, decide against the ascription of the work to a Lancastrian knight, and the arms of Donne and Hastings, which appear on the pillars of the chamber behind the Virgin, are equally indicative of the lineage of the painter's employer. Lady Donne was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Leonard de Hastings, by Alice, youngest daughter of Thomas Lord Camoys. This Thomas Lord Camoys is buried under a fine brass at Trotton, Sussex, and is commemorated there with Elizabeth, his wife, who, by the way, was Hotspur's widow. Lord Camoys himself commanded the left wing of the English at Agincourt. Sir John Donne was probably at Bruges about 1471, and may then have commissioned Memling to paint this triptych, which Mr. Weale rightly considers to be one of the artist's most admirable works. The Virgin sits in the centre, beneath a canopy, in the ordinary manner, and holds the Child upon her knee with her right hand, and with her left a large volume, upon the leaves of which the left hand of Christ rests, rippling several leaves together as He turns towards an angel who, with a violin and bow in one hand, smilingly offers to the Child the emblematic apple. This is on the Knight's side of the picture, who kneels, praying, in front of the angel, while St. Catherine, dressed in a white cotehardie, and holding the sword of her martyrdom, presents him to the Virgin. On the other side, a young angel plays on a regal, or hand organ; Lady Donne kneels, and holds a breviary in her hands; her little daughter, as we suppose, kneels behind. This pair is introduced by St. Barbara, who holds her tower in her hand. On the Knight's side of the picture the landscape is most beautifully painted; it comprises a river with swans, a water-mill on its banks, the man carries a loaded sack into the mill; an ass stands behind him; higher up the bright, smooth river, which comes from between tree-enriched hills in the extreme distance, are a bridge and its guardian tower; a man crosses the bridge. On the lady's side a river appears again; there is also a meadow with a bull. A man on a white horse is seen riding into a wood. The whole is lovely and brilliant beyond description. This background, say MM. Crowe and Cavalcaselle, 'Flemish Painters,' page 257, appears in the Madonna of the Gallery of the Uffizi, Florence, the portrait by Antonello da Messina, in the Gallery at Antwerp, No. 22. The wings of the triptych, which are mounted so as to fold over the centre in the proper manner, contain, inside, (1) St. John the Baptist with his lamb; behind this figure appears a man, probably a servant or friend of the Donnes; and (2) St. John the Evangelist, with the serpent issuing from the poisoned chalice. The background to this figure comprises a chamber with a window having a panel of stained glass, and, seen through the casement, a slip of landscape; also, displayed by the open door, a farmyard, peacock, &c. Outside the wings are depicted in monochrome the effigies of St. Christopher, with the Child on his shoulders and holding his staff, and St. Anthony, with his bell, book, stick and pig.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE managers of the General Exhibition, Dudley Gallery, Piccadilly, who have hitherto opened the

premises in their charge with a collection of water-colour drawings, propose to receive oil-pictures for an independent exhibition, and to place the same before the public late in the coming autumn, or early in the winter. Several "outsiders" of repute and Messrs. Millais, Faed, Frith, Creswick, and other members of the Academy are mentioned among those who have interested themselves in the new Exhibition. There is no necessary connexion between the gathering of water-colour drawings, which has been so successful, and that of oil-pictures, which is now contemplated.

Works for the reconstruction of the nave of Bristol Cathedral, as described by us some weeks since to be according to the designs of Mr. Street, will shortly be taken in hand. Contracts for the execution of portions of this long-desired building have been made.

Admirers of Gainsborough should take the opportunity which now offers to see that magnificent portrait of *Penelope*, Countess Ligonier, born Pitt (No. 413), in the current National Portrait Exhibition, as it has been placed in a good light, quite other than that which hitherto so seriously marred its marvellous charm. Now she stands fully revealed, because the intervening shimmer is obviated, her hand resting between her cheek and chin, her skin of the golden pearly hue such as no one but Gainsborough or Titian could paint; even Titian might have given more of the gold and less of the pearl to this perfect portrait. Her eyes are full of deep fire, that, somehow, looks intensely cold. Cold it might seem to the painter, but deep, ardent and indomitable when she willed to bend their fierceness on the destined man. A very *Lamia*, she seems

—at once some penanced lady elf,

Some demon's mistress, or the demon's self.

She was daughter-in-law to the Lord Ligonier whose equestrian portrait, by Reynolds, is numbered 143 in the National Gallery. "Of Lady Ligonier she has heard too much," wrote Walpole to Mason in 1772, in referring to Mrs. Pitt, the Countess's mother.

Signor B. Genelli's Illustrations to Dante's Divine Comedy (*Umrisse zu Dante's Göttlicher Komödie—Leipzig, Dürr*) lie before us, and comprise a series of very carefully drawn outlines in a style which reminds one of Retzsch and Flaxman, but unfortunate in possessing the good qualities of neither designer. Flaxman's great genius need not be looked for, any more than that noble severity which, in his hands, made "outlines" acceptable, without which the mode of execution is never tolerable. Retzsch's conception was melo-dramatic, poor, and "German" to the lowest degree. Men marvel now at the popularity of that artist's so-called illustrations; but his work was at any rate his own; his conceptions were original; his drawing was not very imperfect. Signor Genelli's sketches show many excellent points, and in some respects considerable novelty of conception. These merits are, however, outweighed by the disproportion of his figures; the latter, as a rule, which is not without an exception, are absurd with regard to the extremities and the heads: thus, for one example among many, (Plate V.) Francesca di Rimini's arm is that of a baby, her body that of a too portly matron. In the next design she is a big Juno, and Paolo has hands and feet which are not only ugly, but absolutely useless to him or any one else; his head is likewise too small. As to vulgarity, every artist knows that the soul of the designer is imbued with that misfortune when his work errs in having the hands and feet too small for true proportion. Here many of the ideas and some of the designs are borrowed almost whole from Flaxman; others exhibit the vulgarity and tameness which is common to modern Italian Art.

The Arundel Society sends us a selection of portraits, as photographed from the collection now at South Kensington. These comprise some of the most memorable in the current display. Fortunately, the camera has been unusually happy in reproducing many of the best and most interesting pictures. We must say, also, that there are others of less value. This was not more than might be expected in such a matter. Among the most commendable are 'John Graham of Claverhouse,'

(No. Cartw famous in the larly p on a so-call which either pleas repro the K come Steele series, eyes a after and t cious her in (64) of the pu gift-p full of liquid Wor dash is ver we ex Linc grace repro Duch comm cipati with Graha for t was f bition are t F. Co Gunn delic cap; Peg this camp and by h her John 631), Coun by R d-d "Ear Nam and

Oswo La Oswa conv of th comm a said upon which Oswa of Sa of his men, brave actual fortu conv new accou in a rouse lant with temp

(No. 13), belonging to Mr. and Lady Elizabeth Cartwright; a singularly striking head of the famous "Dundee," taken by an unknown painter in the soldier's early manhood, and giving a singularly peevish and irritable, but not cruel, expression on a very handsome yet half-feminine face.—The so-called "Rembrandt" (18), "William the Third," which we do not believe to be rightly named on either point, and consider to be one of the most pleasing pictures of a beautiful boy we know, is reproduced to perfection. Kneller's "Addison," the Kit-Cat portrait of a very genial gentleman, comes admirably.—The broad, smooth face of Steele (111), by the same hand, and from the same series, is almost equally fortunate; so the dark eyes and amorous face of young John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough (81), by Vanloo, and the exuberant yet piquant charms of his audacious wife, the oval, by Kneller, when he showed her in a happy mood (89).—The Bodleian "Dryden" (64) comes better than its neighbour (65), which is the property of the poet's descendant.—Kneller's gift-portrait to Pope, "Alexander Pope" (146), is full of the character of the original, even to the liquidly lustrous eyes.—Richardson's "Lady Mary Wortley Montagu" (250), a dashing beauty, is a dashing beauty in the transcript.—"Cowper" (807) is very good, and looks a much happier man than we expected to see him.—Gainsborough's "Lady Lincoln" (436) with the harp, noticeable for the grace and freedom of its attitude, is perfectly reproduced.—Reynolds's "Maria (Waldegrave), Duchess of Gloucester" (461), with rapt "looks commercing with the skies," is, contrary to our anticipations, as true in tone as a good mezzotint, with all the brilliancy of the original.—"Mrs. Graham" (468), the sketch by Gainsborough for that never-to-be-forgotten portrait which was first made famous at the Art-Treasures Exhibition, also comes most fortunately.—Very good are the oval (471), by Catherine Reid (not by F. Cotes), of the famous beauty, Elizabeth (born Gunning), Duchess of Hamilton and Argyll, the delicate, waxy-looking face in the high, pinched cap; and that portrait of the more famous woman, Peg Woffington, who is said to have furnished this very Duchess with finery for her fashionable campaign in London.—Among other desirable and commendable copies are "Gainsborough" (515), by himself, and "Mrs. Gainsborough" (512), by her husband; "Lady Beaumont" (548), "Dr. Johnson" (574), "Kitty Fisher" (Nos. 606 and 631), "The Duchess of Rutland" (661), "The Countess of Powis" (697), and "Fox" (763)—all by Reynolds; also what the Prince called "the d-d obstinate face" of "Pitt" (766), and the "Earl of Derby" (669), by Gainsborough; likewise Nasmyth's capital portrait, oval, of "Burns" (804), and Romney's "Gibbon" (668).

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Oswald of Deira: a Drama. By Georgiana Lady Chatterton. (Longmans & Co.)
Oswald of Deira was one of the early Saxon converts to the Christian faith. In the opinion of the Latin Church he was a martyr; in the common parlance of our Saxon fathers he was a saint. Count de Montalembert has written upon him one of those passionate paragraphs which excite at once our applause and laughter. Oswald was, no doubt, a very respectable sort of Saxon prince; it is hardly too much to say of him, though it would be much to say of most men, that he was a good son, a true lover, a brave soldier, and a wise king. The tale of his actual life is romantic. Taken captive by the fortune of war, reared by an enemy of his race, converted from the religion of his family to a new creed, suspected and rejected by many on account of this change in his belief, educated in a learning of which his people knew nothing, roused into noble resolution and fighting gallantly to regain his lost inheritance, blessed with good fortune in his warlike enterprise, tempted by love for a pagan maid, a worshipper

of Thor and Woden, whom he succeeded in winning for a wife and converting to his new faith—such a tale is a poem in itself. The man, too, not less than the story, was surrounded by an aureole. "Tender and strong," says Montalembert, "grave and sincere, pious and bright, weak and gallant,—at once a soldier and a missionary, a ruler and a martyr,—he died in the flower of his life on the field of battle, fighting for his country and praying for his people."

Lady Chatterton, in choosing this Saxon saint for the hero of her play, has very wisely limited the action to the love affairs of Oswald. Elfrid is the daughter of Cynegils, King of Wessex (A.D. 616); a man who has fallen, through his desire of conquering and annexing the dominions of his Saxon brothers, under the influence of Cadwallon, King of North Wales, by whose help he imagines he will be able to subdue the other Saxon kingdoms. Cadwallon is a pagan, and while dwelling at the court of his ally falls in love with the Saxon princess, also a pagan. But Elfrid cannot return this passion, since she is already engaged in heart to the young Christian, Oswald. Oswald is cast away in the Channel; his people are drowned and his stores sunk in the sea; and the whole party are reported in the palace as having been lost in the storm. This report is, of course, an error; and the mistake is very soon dissipated by a dwarf, called Ethelbald, who seems to have the faculty of running about everywhere, of piercing everybody's disguises, of ascertaining all sorts of convenient facts. This dwarf is a singular creation of Lady Chatterton's fancy. He is called a fool also; but he has nothing in common with the court fools of whom Dr. Doran wrote an elaborate history. Nor has he any sort of relation to the fools of Shakspeare and other poets. He is not very droll, and not at all wicked and selfish. Indeed, he goes about doing every one good; and the chief whimsy about him is the elfin chatter about his own luck and sharpness. He squats on the table and harangues the wicked king. He sits on men's shoulders as a monkey might. He creeps through holes in the wall, and yet runs faster than men can follow him through the forest. He has a bit of Puck, a touch of Ariel, and perhaps a little of Prospero in his nature. Nearly everything done well in this drama is done by him; the other people being given up somewhat inconveniently to passions of rage and grief. This dwarf, and the old pagan queen, Hermengarde, mother of Cynegils,—with her weird beliefs, her superstition, and her reverence for her ancient gods,—are the two characters of the drama. One of Hermengarde's children, Alfred, had become a Christian before he died; and the aged lady is for ever mixing up, in what appear to be trances and visions, respect for her early gods with love for her dead child, and curiosity about the symbol which he had adopted as the sign of his change of heart:—

HERMENGARDE. I try to banish care, and trust
To Wodin, or — Ha! there it is again,
The Sign that Alfred loved, the sacred Sign
He wore upon his breast. It ever comes —
It comes between, or rather takes the place
Of Wodin's image when I try to pray.
Now as I gaze, it higher grows, and seems
With gems to glister; and aloft is raised
Above an altar bright with many lights,
And round it rises slow a temple vast.
Here it has risen — here, just where we stand;
Its arches, like o'ershadowing forest glades,
Meet high above; their branching arms and leaves
Are white as if of stone; and windows closed
With many jewels, like the dappled sky
Of autumn sunsets, glow above the fane
Where shines the Symbol. Kneeling crowds appear,
And priests, with robes of crimson, gold, and white,
Before it bow. — Oh! see'st thou not, my child?

ELFRID (aside). How strange these visions. Are they
true or false?
HER. (after a pause). The fane more splendid grows;
new princes rear
In Venta carven halls, where holy men
With patient toil and many colours trace

Copies of holy speech on parchments fair
That tell about the Symbol and its rites.
(Slowly and pausing.) And in the Saxon's land is wealth
and power,
And palaces, and many monarchs rule.
Time flowing onward ripens golden grain
For future ages.

Hermengarde is no virago, but a gentle, if proud and resolute, character. Oswald, though she is a pagan woman, describes her as
—living a life of duty all her days.

She has merely the common feminine instinct of conservatism. She does not like

—to feel in age my ancient creed disturbed.

The true difficulty of any change of faith, for a loving heart, is subtly indicated by Lady Chatterton in the person of this ancient Saxon dame:—

This faith, grown old through life,
I scarcely knew its depth, or that its roots
Had taken such deep hold within my heart,
Until young Oswald's change brought back to me
The memory of my Alfred's different creed.
His life convinced me not. And harder now
I feel that it would be to cast away
Convictions hallowed by the dying speech
And peaceful trusting look of her who died,
So long ago, my mother Hildegard —
So long, and yet of late she seems to be
More present with me 'en than when she lived,
And nursed me in her arms.

I dread the journey into realms unknown,
Untrodden by the feet of her I loved,
Unhallowed by the prayers of her who died
And blessed me with her dying lips, and smiled,
And said that she was going to the home,
The fair and fruitful gardens of the blest;
The festal halls, where Wodin reigns supreme.
And I have wished in her belief to rest,
Untroubled by a new and untrod faith.

Oswald, as the reader knows, is not lost; and of course he comes to the scene in due season, to win his peerless Saxon bride.

Lady Chatterton's drama is not in the least stagey. It lacks the knowing turns and movements necessary when the action of a play is to be made visible by means of actors and upholstery. It is also wanting in the rasp of passionate speech. On the other side, it is very soft and tender; with a sweet, scholar-like tone. In fact, it is an elegy thrown into dialogue, and adorned with scenic effects; and in the dramas of emotion it will take its appropriate place.

HEREFORD FESTIVAL.

THE Hereford Festival began, under the auspices of favourable weather and with a good attendance for a first morning, on Tuesday last. The programme was liberal, comprising Spohr's setting of Milton's version of the Eighty-fourth Psalm; a clever missionary Anthem, "Ascribe unto the Lord," by Dr. Wesley; and Handel's imperishable "Israel." Spohr's Psalm begins well; but the solo and quartet which follow the opening chorus are in the writer's far-fetched manner. There is much fine composition in Dr. Wesley's Anthem, but it is not clear of a certain scholastic stiffness, natural enough to one who has not had frequent opportunities of hearing his orchestral works performed. Of the "Israel" there is nothing new to be said. On the whole, the music was well conducted by Mr. Townsend Smith. "Israel," however, which was given for the first time in Hereford, is beyond the present power of the Three Choirs, augmented though the chorus has been on the present occasion. Some of the more intricate choruses were deficient in strength and accuracy of intonation, but the performance was superior to any that would have been attainable a quarter of a century since, when "Israel" was neglected as deficient in interest and as impossible to be performed. No doubt, Handel's grave and noble music gains by its being performed in such a building as Hereford Cathedral. The interior is rich and imposing now that the first brilliancy has worn off the polychromatic decorations, to which some have objected as over-garish. The architecture, more than ordinarily massive and solemn, is not disturbed by the painting of the vault, or the brilliant screen which shuts in the choir. To return to the subject more imme-

diately in hand, it is pleasant to see new English talent coming forward. The *contralti*, Miss Julia Elton and Madame Patey-Whytock, are both vocalists of promise, the former lady especially so in right of her natural endowments. It would be well worth her while to devote herself to the conquering of certain defects and the acquisition of finish, style, and, above all, the management of her breath. Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Santley both sang very finely on Tuesday morning. Wednesday morning was devoted to 'Elijah.' We shall speak of the great novelty of the Festival, Herr Goldschmidt's 'Ruth,' this day week. The secular concerts are inferior in interest to the sacred ones. 'Acis and Galatea' was the only complete choral work given at the evening performances. To one act of Tuesday's music a certain unity was given by its containing a selection from Mozart's works.

OLYMPIC.—A play entitled 'The Grasshopper' has been produced at this theatre in connexion with two young ladies from America named 'the Sisters Webb,' who have been accustomed to act in it together, and thereby won much popularity. The play has gone under other titles, and the subject been adapted for the German as well as the Transatlantic stage; and now, on its coming to England, has been reduced from five to three acts by Mr. Benjamin Webster, jun., for the present theatre. It is, in fact, a dramatization of Madame Dudevant's story of 'La Petite Fadette,' and in its new stage form bears a certain resemblance to that of 'The Rough Diamond,' and of the farce of 'Good for Nothing.' But the treatment is different, and far more ambitious. Fanchon (Miss Ada Webb), the granddaughter of *La Mère Fadet* (Miss Emma Webb), has been kept in ignorance of her beauty and of the use of fashionable attire by the old lady, because her mother, urged by vanity and fine dresses, had eloped with an officer, and thus come to ruin. Fanchon's wild and restless habits cause her to be called by the Breton villagers the grasshopper. But at length Fanchon awakens to a consciousness of her charms and her position in society; for *La Mère Fadet*, who has been reputed a witch, and as such has made her harvest of Breton incredulity, ultimately leaves her the heiress to more than forty thousand francs. But she has more than wealth, for she has a lover, the son of a rich farmer, one *Landry Barbeau* (Mr. John Clayton), whose bravery, gaiety and high spirits win her heart. A change comes over the outer life of Fanchon; and from being careless and awkward, she becomes self-regarding and elegant in her manner, and the successful rival of *Maddon* (Miss Sheridan), a young lady with a dowry of ten thousand francs, but who is compelled in the end to be content with the hand of a tradesman, and resign *Landry* to the more attractive Fanchon. It is evident that these contrasts in Fanchon's character make it highly dramatic, and Miss Ada Webb fully understands how to take advantage of their existence. Miss Emma is less happy in her part, which is weird-like and picturesque enough, but gives no opportunity for estimating her beauty, so that she serves as a foil to her sister-actress. They have, however, evidently learnt to play into each other's hands, and both received various calls before the curtain. The character of *Landry* was finely and vigorously interpreted by Mr. Clayton, an actor of considerable promise, who has already excited attention. The house was not well attended; but the drama and the sisters must nevertheless be pronounced successful.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

THAT the late tremendous summer heats have told on all our entertainments was only to be expected. Yet the *Promenade Concerts* at Covent Garden have opened spiritedly, with a good orchestra—a band of M. Courtois' "harmony music," to which we may return; Signora Sarolta and Signora Eracles as principal singers; and as principal instrumentalists, Mr. James Wehli on the piano, and Mr. Levey on the violin. The programmes include a fair admixture of classical

music: the last conducted by Herr Strauss.—The *Alhambra* entertains the public in its usual profuse fashion, besides its nightly three well-mounted *ballets*, giving some sixteen pieces of music, with a sprinkling of what is sterling among much that is popular. The orchestra is both good in itself and well conducted, better in both respects than were the orchestras of our patent theatres half-a-century ago.—There are, also, Concerts at the *Agricultural Hall*, at which artists of some note have been singing.—At Saturday's *Crystal Palace Concert* the vocalists were, Miss Louisa Pyne, Madame Louisa Vinning, Mdle. Drasdil, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Santley: a liberal list. The Concert of "The Tonic Sol-Fa Association," held there, appears to have been successful, and is to be repeated.

Certain "entertainers" are availing themselves of the close of the Strand Theatre to present themselves to the public. Mr. Eliot Galer is there for the moment; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul will for a time give their celebrated entertainments there.—The performances at the Royal Amphitheatre, Holborn, are now confined entirely to equestrian exhibition; so that the stage remains unoccupied, except by the horse *Zamor* when evincing his marvellous indifference to the shower of fireworks to which he is exposed.

Mr. A. S. Sullivan is engaged on a new Symphony.

Simultaneously with our last week's exposure of the mystification attempted to be passed on the public in regard to the so-called "sacred song by Beethoven," 'St. Jerome's Dream,' a contributor to the *Orchestra* had absolutely the temerity, in abuse of this journal, and defence of the integrity of the fabrication, to cite the words and the leading phrase of the Welsh melody mentioned here, and—will it be believed?—to assert that this spurious and misnomered ditty was the one to which Thackeray (who has now been dead some years) alluded! A less creditable attempt to shuffle away from under the chastisement richly merited by so barefaced a misdemeanor is not to be found in the history of the world of shams.

'Lorenzo Soderini,' a new opera by the Count Cenci-Bolognietti, is said to have pleased at the Pagliano Theatre, Florence.—It is stated in *Il Trovatore* that, besides the artists already named to appear, during the season, at the Paris Italian Opera, Signora and Signor Tiberini have been engaged.—'Malek Adhel,' an opera by Signor Lamperti, has been given, with some success, (says the *Gazette Musicale*) at the Teatro Balbo, Turin.

There is to be a new theatre on the Chiaja at Naples, bearing the title of the Teatro Donizetti. The first part of the Abbé Liast's oratorio, 'Christ,' devoted merely to the birth of the Redeemer, has been presented at Rome. The performance lasted three hours. Two other parts are to come.

The *France Musicale* announces that M. Offenbach has promised a new setting of a former burlesque by him, 'Genéviève de Brabant,' to the Théâtre de Menus Plaisirs, at Paris.

Two great singing festivals are to be held on the 25th of this month and the 1st of September in Paris. Three hundred and sixty-seven societies will come together on the occasion.

There was a Musical Festival at Dordrecht on the 2nd of August. Another, at Meiningen, has been held this week.

'La Comédie en Voyage,' an operetta, by M. Deffes, has been given at Ems, with entire success.—The operetta, 'Sacrifiant,' by M. Duprato, has carried off the prize awarded by Government to the best work which has been represented at the Fantaiesies Parisiennes.

The first Meyerbeer scholar is Herr Wilhelm Clausen, of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The "exercise" (to use the University phrase) was a fugue, for two choirs of four voices each, an overture, and a cantata, on the story of Jephtha's daughter.

The memorial by our dramatists in defence of the interests of French authors, has been duly presented in high places—too late in the parliamentary season, of course, for anything to be done. Its consideration on a future occasion was promised.

Mr. Hermann Vezin's management of the Princess's closed on Thursday. 'The Man o' Airlie'

has fully justified his selection, and though, owing to the time and circumstances, it has probably not been so remunerative as he might have expected, it has nevertheless raised him in theatrical estimation as a clever and judicious actor. It is perhaps hard that, according to new systems of management, neither actor nor author can get efficiently placed before the public without incurring large responsibilities; but Mr. Vezin will have no reason to repent the cost.

Foreign papers announce the death, in Russia, of Mr. Ira Aldridge, the black tragedian, whose performances gained for him a success in France and Germany which he never enjoyed in England.

A misprint, in the musical column of last week's *Athenæum*, is to be corrected. For Max "Burch," the composer, read *Bruch*.—The Welsh air on which the "sacred song by Beethoven"—'St. Jerome's Dream'—is founded (mentioned last week) is 'Merch Megan.'

MISCELLANEA

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star."—If you think the error sufficiently important to notice in your pages, you will perhaps insert the following correction. In a volume of 'Verses and Translations,' by C. S. Calverley, published by Bell & Daldy, 1862, at page 24, appear the following lines:—

Ere the morn the East has crimsoned,
When the stars are trembling there,
As they did in Watts's hymns and
Made him wonder what they were.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are,

was written by Ann and Jane Taylor, of Ongar. There is a charm in its beautiful simplicity which will preserve it as a children's hymn when the "bears and lions" of Dr. Watts are buried and forgotten.

JOHN W. FORD.

Jewish Coinage.—Permit me, through the medium of your columns, to state, that it was by error that I ascribed, in the 'Supplement to the Old Testament Scriptures,' the very suggestive volume on the Jewish coinage, and to which I was so much indebted, to Sir Fred. Madden. Its author is Mr. Fred. W. Madden, of the British Museum, and that gentleman's son. ALEX. VANCE.

Fish Streams.—In illustration of the subject broached by the Report of the Fishery Commissioners, an extract from which appears in the *Athenæum* of August the 17th, I would beg to draw attention to the fact that a cheap and inexpensive machine exists for detaining the residuum which passes with the water from paper-mills; this machine is extensively used by the Messrs. Cowan in Scotland, and elsewhere also. It possesses the advantages of providing a perfectly limpid and clear water useful in itself for washing paper, and the residuum is a pulp, which, if I am right, when mixed with other pulp in the mill, results in the production of note-paper; at any rate, I am sure that this resiliency of foul water is convertible into paper. This machine, which is only known to me as Needham & Kite's patent, has been presented to the Rivers Pollution Commissioners, and tried with success at Huddersfield on the dye-waters. It remains to be seen what their judgment may be, and whether it will be enacted that the use of some such press shall be made imperative on our manufacturers; but I have been told that its operation on the water from paper-mills was completely satisfactory. At Huddersfield this machine produced a verification, that was unexpected, by me at any rate, in operating on the black dye-water. Much oxide of iron was extracted; this proved to be one of the ingredients in the black dye, and from the fugitive characters of the other adjuncts to that production, there became recognizable at once the truth of the description "of a rusty suit of black." I am quite sure that either this or some other such invention will be found to impart a very different character to our rivers, and assist in the most material manner in rendering them fit receptacles of animal life. J. C. G.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—W. H.—J. J.—A. V.—J. K.—B. J. E.—J. B.—received.

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

For the Year and Quinquennium ending 30th June, 1867, read at the Annual General Meeting of Proprietors, 9th August, 1867.

GEORGE RUSSELL, Esq., Chairman of the Company, in the Chair.

THE Report which the Directors have now to make to the Proprietors has reference not only to the progress of the Company during the past year, but also to the more important consideration of its financial condition at the close of another quinquennium, and of the long term of Sixty years from the date of its establishment.

As regards the progress of the Company during the Year, it may be sufficient to state that the ordinary Receipts and Payments have been augmented by those of another small Assurance Society, the business of which has been transferred to the Eagle in this interval. Thus, the total Premiums received have been 307,533*l.*, and the Interest from Investments, 123,362*l.*; whilst, on the other hand, the Claims on decease of Lives Assured have amounted to 307,046*l.*, and the Expenses of Management to 16,920*l.*—this last Sum including 3,909*l.*, which will, for the most part, now cease.

An exception to this general augmentation is to be found in the case of the Premiums on New Assurances, which have amounted to 15,401*l.*—a less sum than they have reached in foregoing years.

Adverting now to the results of the quinquennial investigation, which has been in progress for several months, and which has been conducted with all due care and circumspection, it appears, from the Actuary's statement, that there were in force on the 30th June last, the following Policies, viz.:—

16,882 participating, assuring, with additions, 2,305,962*l.*, and paying Premiums amounting to 274,517*l.* per annum;

And 4,096 non-participating, assuring 3,709,743*l.*, and paying Premiums amounting to 112,319*l.* per annum.

The total amount Assured in these two classes—viz., 13,015,705*l.*—together with some annuities, is found, by the minute and laborious processes used in such investigations, to involve an immediate liability of 6,244,830*l.*

The total Annual Premium receivable—viz., 386,836*l.*—is shown, by the like processes, to be now worth 4,506,103*l.*, or nearly 12 years' purchase.

The net Liability arising under these large items, viz., 1,738,662*l.*, is included in the following statement, which has been verified by the Auditors, and which comprises all the realized and unrealized Assets of the Company, and also all claims against it, immediate or remote.

LIABILITIES.

	£.	s.	d.
Interest due to Proprietors	3,533	7	6
Claims on decease of Lives Assured, and additions thereto, unpaid	56,774	14	1
Sundry Accounts	21,947	16	11
Value of Sums Assured	6,244,829	14	6
Proprietors' Fund	177,680	0	0
Surplus Fund	981,514	13	9
	1,150,194	13	9
	£7,486,280	6	9

ASSETS.

	£.	s.	d.
Amount invested in fixed Mortgages	1,352,448	3	5
Ditto ditto, decreasing Mortgages	194,919	8	2
Ditto ditto, Reversions	586,972	10	7
Ditto ditto, Funded Securities	347,502	11	11
Ditto ditto, Temporary Securities	123,227	13	9
Current Interest on the above Investments	22,967	3	3
Cash and Bills	27,297	17	10
Advanced on Security of the Company's Policies	148,572	3	8
Agents' Balances	25,017	0	3
Sundry Accounts	43,175	3	11
Value of Reassurances	100,082	12	0
Value of Premiums	4,506,167	18	0
	£7,486,280	6	9

Deducting the Sums payable on demand, or at an early maturity, it will be found that the realized Assets above set forth amount to 2,597,866*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, and the Proprietors will observe that of this amount 177,680*l.*, their paid-up capital, is set apart exclusively for them; 1,738,662*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* exclusively for the Policy-holders, and 381,514*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* for both. This last item forms the provision for the present Bonus, and the accumulating fund for future Bonuses and Expenses, and it is recommended accordingly that 208,774*l.* be now appropriated for immediate distribution, leaving 772,740*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* to accumulate, and also to meet the reductions of Premium in respect of the Policies transferred by the National Mercantile Assurance Society, the first of which reductions, it may be remembered, is to take place in 1868.

The share of the present distribution pertaining to the Proprietors will be paid to them, with the dividend, early in October. The portion to be allotted to the Policy-holders will be determined as quickly as possible, and notices of the addition made in each case despatched to them; but this process will necessarily occupy considerable time. Meanwhile, some idea may be formed of the amount of these reversionary additions by an examination of the subjoined Table, which exhibits them in the instance of Assurances twenty years old, effected on lives of various ages at commencement of the risk.

Additions to the Sum of £1,000, assured under Eagle Policies of Twenty Years' standing.

Age at Entry.	Additions prior to 1867.	Additions now made.	TOTAL.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
23	235 0 0	67 12 0	302 12 0
25	221 5 10	62 16 0	284 1 10
27	213 15 10	59 10 0	273 5 10
31	193 19 7	54 13 0	248 12 7
36	180 6 8	49 14 0	230 0 8
41	167 2 4	46 8 0	213 10 4
46	161 2 2	46 12 0	207 14 2

The additions to be made to the assurances of the Society just transferred, will be in the same proportion, but will be necessarily smaller in amount, in consideration of the shorter time, that is to say, of the eighteen months only in which they have accrued.

The Directors consider that these results are satisfactory, and they trust that the Proprietors will be of the same opinion; looking at the progress which the Company has made during the last twenty years and the position which it has now attained, they feel themselves justified in anticipating that its future career will be a successful one. They will only add, that they hope in a few weeks to be enabled to remove from their Temporary Offices to the new premises in Pall Mall, and thenceforth to have more suitable accommodation for the carrying on of the Company's business than it has been their good fortune of late years to enjoy.

The Direction of the Company is now constituted as follows:—

COL. CHARLES WETHERALL, K.C.T., Chairman.

RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN YOUNG, Bart. K.C.B., Deputy-Chairman.

CHARLES BISCHOFF, Esq.
THOMAS BODDINGTON, Esq.
CHARLES CHATFIELD, Esq.
WILLIAM F. DE LA RUE, Esq.
SIR J. BULLER EAST, Bart. D.C.L.

ROBERT A. GRAY, Esq.
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS GUY, M.D. F.R.S.
CHARLES THOMAS HOLCOMBE, Esq.
JOSHUA LOCKWOOD, Esq.
JAMES MURRAY, Esq.

RALPH CHARLES PRICE, Esq.
PHILIP ROSE, Esq.
GEORGE RUSSELL, Esq.
THOMAS GODFREY SAMBROOKE, Esq.
CAPTAIN L. S. TINDAL, R.N.

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